

Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband (Cornelia Stewart)

Chapter 41

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Chapter 41

Cornelia had to pull out all the stops to convince Zack and Abigail to let her s**p the hospital stay, and now they're all in the car heading home

Abigail was still nagging, "Nelly, what if you have internal injury? I've got all supplies for you, but you still wouldn't stay in the hospital"

Cornelia pinched her face. There was no need for the hospital. Their beds are nowhere near as comfy as the ones at home. I haven't had a good night's sleep in a month and a half I miss my bed so much"

Still shaken. Zack gripped the steering wheel tightly. "You got fortunate tonight. It was so close. We could've lost you."

After having barbeque tonight, Zack went to get the car from the parking lot, Abigail went to the restroom, and Cornelia was waiting outside the restaurant when suddenly, a car came speeding towards her.

Thankfully, Cornelia reacted quickly and dodged behind a nearby tree, avoiding serious injury However, she still took a fall and scraped her elbow

The car crashed into the tree, causing significant damage to both the vehicle and the driver. Fortunately, the ambulance arrived in time, and the driver's life was not in danger A notification from her phone interrupted their conversation. Cornelia picked it up to see a message from Leonardo.

She couldn't believe it when Leonardo mentioned Marcus' wife cheating on him.

But on second thought, it didn't seem impossible.

Before, whenever Marcus mentioned his wife, he had a gentle expression, but later, he forbade them to bring her up.

Cornelia sighed, "Zack, drop me off at Shimmer Club when we pass by"

Abigail asked, "Why? Are you going to be the driver for your heartless boss again?"

Cornelia chuckled, "I'm his assistant, can't avoid these things."

"You're about to get the copyright fee. You're not short of money. Can you quit?" Zack tried to persuade her, but they all knew work gave her a sense of security

As her best friends, they had to support her work “Well go with you. Well drop him off and pick you up to go home together.”

“This is my job, you can’t always be with me” Cornelia patted their shoulders, “Don’t worry, I’ll take care of myself.”

They didn’t want to put too much pressure on Cornelia, so they didn’t insist and dropped her off at the entrance of Shimmer Club, watching her go in before leaving

Cornelia quickly found the private room where Marcus was

Seeing her, Leonardo lit up with a bright smile and opened his arms for a hug, “Ms. Stewart, it’s been ages! I’ve missed you.”

“Mr. Wilson, hello!” Cornelia dodged his hug and glanced around the room, seeing only him, “Did you lie to me?”

“I wouldn’t dare” Leonardo pointed to the balcony.

Cornelia looked over and saw Marcus on the phone. She hadn’t noticed him before because the balcony light was off.

Leonardo said, “Cornelia, have you ever considered using your advantage to get ahead?”

Cornelia raised an eyebrow, Leonardo, what do you mean?”

Leonardo moved closer to Cornelia conspiratorially. The news of President Hartley’s wife cheating on him has spread like wildfire in our circle. Many women want to take advantage of this and snatch President Hartley for themselves, but they can’t even get close to him. You, on the other hand, are with him every day. It is your chance”

Cornelia wanted to punch Leonardo. Could this guy think about anything other than relationships all day? “Leonardo, you better shut up.”

Leonardo couldn’t believe any woman could resist Marcus, ‘Marcus is rich, handsome, fit, and he doesn’t fool around outside. Haven’t you ever thought about being with him?’

“Not at all. Not even a little” Cornelia answered sensibly, ‘Mr. Wilson, if you don’t want me to lose my job, please don’t mention things like this.’

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Just as she finished speaking, the sliding door to the balcony opened, and Marcus walked in.

His ordinarily neat hair now had a few strands hanging down messily. Beads of water dotted his face And his eyes behind his silver-framed glasses looked a bit hazy. He looked like hed had a bit too much to drink

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“What, you again?” When he saw Cornelia, there was a hint of joy in his eyes, but it was extinguished instantly with her response, “Just doing my job.”

He laughed coldly. You go back, have the driver come pick me up”

If it were in the past, Cornelia would have obediently left, but now, in her eyes, Marcus was no longer the aloof big boss. He was just an ordinary person who had been hurt by love, and she couldn't bear to leave him alone.

Leonardo tried to persuade him, “Marc, if you're drunk, don't talk. Let Ms. Stewart take you home.”

Cornelia took the initiative to grab the car keys, “President Hartley, let's go”

Marcus sat in the back seat as Cornelia drove, squinting at her profile. She was serious about driving and didn't say a word to him.

“Heh “He sneered

Just doing her job?

Half an hour later, they arrived at the villa.

Cornelia had been here twice before to deliver some documents, so she was familiar with the place.

Marcus sat in the car without moving, his slender fingers resting on his forehead as if he felt uncomfortable.

Cornelia was quite worried, “President Hartley, are you having an alcohol allergy again?”

Marcus closed his eyes and didn't respond.

Cornelia turned on the backseat light, and the light shone on his face. His skin was a bit red, but it wasn't the usual symptom of an allergy

She reminded him again, “President Hartley, we're home.”

Marcus opened his eyes, a complex look on his face, “Can you go make me a hangover soup?”

Marcus didn't like other people living in his space, so Patricia didn't stay in the villa at night.

Cornelia knew this as well.

Cornelia made the hangover soup from memory. She thought Marcus had gone upstairs to shower, so she left after preparing the soup.

But he had been quietly sitting on the living room sofa, holding an unsmoked cigarette while gazing out the window with a look that would make anyone feel pity for him.

Having experienced betrayal herself, Cornelia knew the feeling all too well. It was like someone had dug a hole in her heart with a knife, and the pain was unbearable.

She thought Marcus must be feeling the same way right now.

Cornelia handed him the hangover soup and whispered, “President Hartley, drink this first, and then get some rest.”

Marcus looked at her and noticed the scrape on her elbow, “Did you hurt your elbow?”

Cornelia was wearing a long-sleeved white shirt, and when she rolled up her sleeves while making the soup, Marcus saw the scrape on her elbow.

“It's just a scratch” Cornelia quickly pulled down her sleeve, not wanting to talk about the car accident.

Since she didn't mention it, Marcus pretended not to know and drank the hangover soup.

He often had to socialize and drink, but he never had the habit of drinking hangover soup before. The only two times he did were when Cornelia made it for him. It was sweet and sour and tasted pretty good.

Seeing him finish, Cornelia felt relieved, “President Hartley, you should get some rest now; I be

leaving

“Just sleep here tonight, don’t go,” he said.

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Cornelia was so startled by Marcus words that she instinctively backed away, quickly widening the gap between them.

Seeing how she avoided him. Marcus eyes turned a bit cold it’s hard to get a taxi around here at night. There are guest rooms on the second floor, so you can pick one and stay for the

night”

Cornelia

So that was what he meant Cornelia was overthinking

Marcus got up and found a first aid kit, taking out a green ointment. “Apply this on your wounds after taking a shower.”

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Thanks, President Hartley!” Cornelia graciously accepted the ointment. As for staying over, she didn’t think it was necessary.

Even if they stayed on separate floors, it wasn’t appropriate for a man and a woman to be alone together. I’m afraid I might disturb your rest, I won’t stay here”

Marcus, I sleep on the third floor, and you would sleep on the second floor. How could you possibly disturb me? Are your legs that long, that they can reach the ceiling?”

*Cornelia,***

Marcus continued. “It’s 2 AM now, and you must return tomorrow morning. Are you sure you want to leave?”

After he reminded her, Cornelia realized that she still needed to come over early tomorrow morning to discuss the details of Marcus’s birthday decoration with the planning company. She nodded, “Then I go rest first. Boss, you should also get some rest

The villa had three floors Marcus’ room and study were on the third floor, while the second floor was usually empty, though the housekeeper would clean it regularly.

There were two guest rooms on the second floor. Cornelia chose the one further inside.

The room was cozy and clean, with brand-new bedding. It was as if no one had ever stayed there.

The bathroom had a newly stocked bathrobe and all the toiletries she might need, just like in a five-star hotel.

That day, Cornelia had flown from snowy West Region to short-sleeve weather in Riverton, signed a divorce agreement, had a minor car accident, and ended up being Marcus driver. She was exhausted. After the shower, she fell into bed and was asleep within minutes.

Cornelia always had a regular schedule, and even though she went to bed late the night before, she still woke up at 6 AM

If only she knew that Marcus had been up even earlier than that. She opened the curtains and could see the swimming pool in the backyard. A man wearing only swimming trunks was

standing by it

He was tall, with an eight-pack, a face like a sculpture, and a pair of indifferent yet captivating eyes

It was the first time Cornelia realized that Marcus' body, hidden beneath his white shirt and black trousers, was even more attractive than his face.

What woman would cheat on such a high-quality man? Not unless-

Suddenly, Cornelia recalled Leonardo's comment – President Hartley may look good, but he's truly not that great."

Could it be that Marcus couldn't satisfy his wife in bed, so she cheated on him?

Cornelia was shocked by her indecent thoughts.

How could she think of President Hartley like that?

She quickly closed the curtains so she wouldn't have any more wild thoughts.

After washing up, Cornelia changed into the clothes she had washed and dried last night. Then she went downstairs to make breakfast/

As she reached the stairs on the second floor, Patricia happened to walk in. Seeing a young, beautiful girl suddenly appear in the house made Patricia feel both surprised and delighted "Mrs. Hartley, you're back?"

**Patricia, it's me, Cornelia "Cornelia quickly explained, "President Hartley had a few drinks last night, so I drove him home. It was late, so I stayed in a guest room on the second*

d floor” To avoid any misunderstanding, she emphasized that she stayed in the guest room on the second floor,

Patricia came closer and recognized Cornelia, cheerfully saying, “Oh, it’s Cornelia! I thought the young master had brought Mrs. Hartley back.”

Cornelia felt incredibly awkward!

*Patricia didn’t seem to mind this She continued,
“Ms. Stewart, do you have a boyfriend?”*

Cornelia replied, “I’m already married”

Patricia seemed a bit disappointed, “You got married so young?”

Cornelia nodded in confirmation

As Patricia prepared breakfast, she asked, “What would Ms Stewart like to eat?”

“Patricia, can I make something myself?” Cornelia suddenly craved some homemade food, so she decided to cook a dish herself

*Patricia was very enthusiastic, ‘Of course!
President Hartley rarely eats at home, so I usually make him breakfast. You can treat this place like your home and use the kitchen however you*

like”

“Thank you then “Cornelia

began to prepare the ingredients she needed

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Ingredients were all set, and Cornelia started to whip up the sauce first

The pot of water was already boiling on the side Cornelia threw in the pasta, and once they were ready, she took them out and rinsed them in cold water

Finally, the pasta was ready, and she poured the sauce

Patricia was amazed by Cornelia’s smooth moves.

Nowadays, many girls didn’t know how to cook, let alone cook well. And someone as beautiful as Cornelia who could also cook well? That’s like finding a needle in a haystack! Patricia’s mouth was watering when she saw the aromatic pasta “Ms. Stewart, your husband is one lucky man! Marrying a girl who’s so good at cooking”

Not wanting to talk about her annoying husband, Cornelia changed the subject. I made a lot, Patricia. Do you wanna give it a try?”

“Oh, Cornelia, you made some for me too?” Patricia was thrilled. “Later, tell me what you put in it so I can try making it myself when I crave it.”

“Sure thing” Cornelia said confidently with a smile. “Many people can make it, but this is my

grandma's secret recipe. You won't find anything like it in a restaurant"

Patricia rubbed her hands excitedly. Then I gotta learn it well"

Marcus entered the room and smelt something different. It didn't smell like his usual breakfast.

He's drawn to the aroma and saw Cornelia and Patricia happily chatting in the kitchen.

His eyes landed on Cornelia's tall, slim figure, and a terrifying thought came to mind.

If only he could see her every morning...

Patricia spotted him first, "Marc, want some pasta?"

Marcus never ate pasta for breakfast. "No thanks"

Patricia glanced at Cornelia, who whispered, "He doesn't want any. I'll eat some more."

Cornelia turned to see Marcus, who was wearing his usual white shirt and black pants, but all she could see was his abs

She shook her head quickly to forget those inappropriate images.

At the dining table,

Marcus had a nutritious breakfast, which was healthy but bland.

In front of Cornelia were two plates of mouth-watering pasta, smelling and tasting great.

Marcus noticed the two plates in front of Cornelia, wondering how such a slender girl could eat so much in the morning without bursting. "Are both yours?"

Cornelia nodded, "Yep, these are the pasta I cooked. I don't want to waste them, so I eat two."

Marcus didn't say anything, but his eyes remained on the untouched plate.

Cornelia got the hint and cautiously asked, "President Hartley, would you like to try some?"

That's what Marcus was waiting for. "Maybe."

Cornelia immediately handed him the bowl, "President Hartley, please enjoy!"

Marcus took a bite with his fork. He's very picky about the taste of food, and wouldn't take a second bite if he did not like it..

Cornelia was overjoyed to see him finish the entire plate.

His empty bowl was proof of her cooking skills. "President Hartley, my cooking is not bad, right?"

Though her pasta was not quite as good as those made by professional chefs, Marcus didn't hold back his praise when she's expecting it. "Yes, very good."

"Thank you for the compliment, President Hartley!" With the praise, Cornelia's face was full of genuine smiles for the whole morning.

After confirming the birthday party decoration plan with the event planning company, Cornelia handed the tablet to Marcus and said, "President Hartley, please take a look and see if theres anything else that needs to be changed"

Marcus took the tablet, and Cornelia waited quietly beside him. The two sat close together at the bar counter.

Patricia watches the handsome man and beautiful woman from a distance. They seem like a picture-perfect scene.

For a moment, Patricia wisheed Cornelia would become Mrs. Hartley, but then-

"Marc, I'm back!" A young, crisp voice broke the afternoon silence, followed by a lively girl appearing before them.

The girls face was full of radiant smiles, but her expression instantly changed when she sees the woman next to Marcus.

She yelled without hesitation, pointing at Cornelia, "You shameless woman! How dare you show your face here!"

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"Why do you always bother my brother? Don't you know you're embarrassing him? Just get out of here!"

Cornelia was stunned by the girls scolding

Luckily, Marcus quickly stepped in, "Briana Hartley, do you know what you're talking about?! Apologize right now!"

His voice was deep and earnest, full of authority and toughness

"Bro, you want me to apologize to this shameless woman?" For the first time in her twenty-something years, Briana saw Marcus being so harsh with her. She felt wronged, and tears immediately welled up in her eyes. "You've never been angry with me before, but now you're angry with me because of a disloyal woman."

Briana sobbed "Bro, this woman has already hooked up with other men. Are you just going to pretend nothing happened?"

It was then that Cornelia realized Briana had misunderstood her true identity.

Cornelia laughed self-mockingly and said, "Ms. Hartley, I'm just Marcus' assistant. What does it matter to him who I've been with?"

She was right. She was just an assistant. He had no right to interfere with her relationships

But Marcus didn't understand why he felt so uncomfortable about it.

Almost instantly, Briana's tearful face broke into a bright smile, as if she hadn't been the one crying just moments before "Oh, so you're Cornelia, the assistant. I'm so sorry! I wasn't trying to yell at you. Actually, I was talking about my cheating sister-in-law."

Cornelia was puzzled, "You can't even recognize your sister-in-law?"

Briana was about to say something, but Marcus interrupted her. "Why did you come back early?"

Briana said wrongly, "Of course, I come back to celebrate your birthday, but you scolded me."

Marcus sternly scolded her, "You insult people without knowing the facts. You haven't learned anything besides insulting other people in all these years, have you?"

“Bro, I’m very sorry!

I was just worried that a bad woman was deceiving you” Briana playfully grabbed his clothes, but it had no effect.

“So you think it’s okay to insult people just because you’re worried about me?” Marcus said emotionlessly, exuding authority. “Can you just insult anyone around me?”

Briana had never seen Marcus so strict before, and she was truly scared of him. She turned to Cornelia for help, holding her arm. “Cornelia, I’m sorry. Can you forgive me? If you do, I’ll help you with anything you need from now on”

“It’s okay if you weren’t insulting me “Cornelia got scolded for no reason, but she wasn’t that angry.

Besides, Briana was Marcus’ sister, and as a brother, Marcus had the right to discipline her. Cornelia, an outsider, had no right to be angry at Briana.

Briana and Marcus shared some similarities. She’s beautiful like a little elf, and Cornelia was attracted to beautiful things.

Briana hugged Cornelia tightly, “Cornelia, you’re beautiful and kind. From now on, you’re my friend.”

The little girl’s enthusiasm was quite overwhelming.

“Briana, Marcus...” A sweet female voice came from the doorway.

Cornelia turned to see a beautiful young girl.

The girl had a delicate face. She wore a white dress, with her black hair draped over her shoulders. She looked like a college student

She walked towards Marcus with a smile, “Brother Marcus, long time no see. I’ve missed you!”

Marcus glanced at her, “Who are you? Why would you miss me?”

Chapter 46

You guys all seem so chummy with Marcus, yet he acts like he doesn’t even know you

Cornelia felt that Marcus’ cold attitude was once again eye opening His approach was simple, straightforward, and rude, leaving no room for illusions.

The girl bit her lip sadly, her eyes filled with tears ‘Marcus, don’t you remember me?’

Seeing her friend treated this way, Briana felt heartbroken. “Marcus, this is Natalia, Natalia Reese If it weren’t for that woman showing up, Natalia might have been your wife” M

arcus said coldly, "My wife? Who told you that? If you keep talking nonsense like this, stay home"

Briana, In fine. Dont argue with Marcus." Natalia's eyes were full of tears, but she still tried to stay strong

Her wounded appearance might make any man feel sorry for her, but Marcus remained unmoved. "Briana, take your friend and leave. Don't bring anyone here again

"Fine, we'll leave, hmph Briana said in anger, ready to leave but turned back and asked, "Marc, I'm hungry. Can eat first and then go?"

Marcus loved his sister and couldn't let her go hungry, so he didn't answer and just walked away

Since Marcus didn't object. Briana assumed he agreed. "Patricia, is there still lunch?"

Patricia greeted her with a smile, Bri, you seemed to have grown taller again."

"Patricia, I stopped growing ages ago. Only you think I'm taller every time we meet." Briana acted spoiled, hugging Patricia "I'm starving; is there food?" Patricia patted her head, "If Bri wants to eat, how could there not be?"

"Patricia, you're always the best to me "Briana told Natalia, "Natalia, come on, let's eat."

Natalia smiled at Cornelia, "Ms. Stewart, nice to meet you!"

Cornelia politely smiled back, "Ms. Reese, hello!"

Although Natalia was polite in words, her eyes were full of unkindness, just like her brother Cameron.

Cornelia used to get confused about Cameron's hostility towards her, but today, meeting Natalia, she suddenly understood.

Natalia liked Marcus, and the Reese family naturally wanted to become relatives with the Hartley family.

However, they didn't resent Marcus wife but targeted Cornelia, the little assistant.

She was Marcus' assistant, a position many people in the company wanted, and many worried that she would replace Mrs. Hartley due to her closeness to him.

Didn't those who doubted her know what kind of person Marcus was?

He couldn't possibly be in love with his little assistant!

Cornelia looked at Natalia's unfriendly eyes and asked with a smile, "Ms. Reese, is there something on my face?"

Natalia smiled and said, "I think you are stunning; I couldn't help but stare. I hope you don't mind."

Innocent Briana didn't understand Natalia's implied words and agreed, "Cornelia is so beautiful!"

Natalia continued, "Ms. Stewart, being so beautiful, you must have many suitors, right?"

"Um, indeed I do!" Cornelia replied generously. "Ms. Reese, don't worry, I'm already married, and I love my husband very much. I definitely won't get in the way of your pursuit of President Hartley."

Chapter 47

Cornelia didn't want to play dumb.

She had no family in Riverton, while Natalia had the backing of the Reese family, one of Riverton's four major families,

If Natalia wanted to hurt her, it would be as easy as killing an ant

Past experiences taught her that being flexible was often the key to protecting herself better

Cornelia's straightforwardness took Natalia by surprise.

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She hesitated for a moment, then leaned in and whispered, "Ms. Stewart, you sure know yourself well. As long as you don't mess with my business, I won't give you any trouble"

Natalia acted sweet and innocent in front of Marcus but showed her true colors as soon as he left.

Cornelia was glad her judgment was on point and didn't fall for this seemingly sweet but dark hearted girl 'Knowing myself is my biggest strength'

After getting a satisfactory answer, Natalia gave Cornelia a disdainful look and left with Briana

Cornelia didn't quite understand girls like Natalia Was it worth it sacrificing yourself for a man who doesn't love you?

"Seems like you didn't remember a single word I said "

Marcus voice suddenly came from behind her, startling Cornelia. She turned around to see his deep gaze.

She was very focused at work, and being suddenly dismissed like that left a bad taste in her mouth. President Hartley, if there's anything I'm not doing well at work, please point it out directly I'll do my best to satisfy you."

Marcus raised an eyebrow, "Did I say you're not doing your job well?"

Cornelia asked, "Then what do you mean?"

Marcus said, "Let's eat first."

Cornelia had no choice but to follow him to the restaurant.

At the dining table,

Briana and Natalia were chatting non-stop

Briana said, "My brother has always been so cold to you. I don't know why you like him."

Natalia replied, "Does liking someone need a reason? I've wanted to be Marcus bride since I was little. In this life, besides him, I won't marry anyone else"

The two stopped talking and behaved as soon as they saw Marcus enter.

The dining table was huge, and everyone ate their meals separately.

Marcus sat at one end of the table. Cornelia consciously chose the furthest spot from him and silently ate her food.

Cornelia had eaten a lot in the morning, so she wasn't too hungry. She finished eating when she saw Marcus hadn't touched his meal yet.

He lit a cigarette and looked coldly at Natalia, "You honestly think you can marry me just because you want to be my bride? If you don't want to embarrass the Reese family, you better give up on those unrealistic thoughts."

"Marcus, I'm sorry... Natalia bit her lip, tears filling her eyes again, I know it's because that woman betrayed you. That's why you want a divorce. My feelings for you might make others think you're divorcing because of me. I shouldn't have expressed my feelings at this time, but I can't help but love you so much that I want the whole world to know. You don't have to like me, but please don't hurt my sincerity, okay?"

That was too dramatic, but a

lot of men just happened to like girls like this.

However, Natalia's act didn't move Marcus, 'Don't play this game with me. You think you're qualified just because of a divorce?'

Chapter 48

Marcus took a deep puff of his cigarette, Briana, get this person out of here right away, and don't get close to this kind of person in the future"

"Natalia, let's get out of here" Marcus seemed extra scary today. Briana pulled Natalia away from the villa as if they were fleeing

Once in the car.

Briana patted his chest nervously, "Natalia, I have told you this before, my brother values his personal space. I didn't tell him beforehand that I was bringing you over, so he's not pleased Natalia looked back. The car was speeding away, getting further and further away from the villa she had always dreamed of

She couldn't get the image of Marcus and Cornelia together out of her head.

She knew better than anyone how much Marcus disliked girls. She had tried countless ways to get close to him before, but he had always rejected her sternly.

Cornelia was the only young girl she had seen that could get so close to Marcus.

The more Natalia thought about it, the more annoyed she became. "If he values his personal space so much, why can that woman come and go in his house as she pleases? And be so close to him?"

Briana was stunned and asked, "Which woman? My sister-in-law? Even though she cheated, they're still married, so isn't it normal for her to enter their house?"

If she didn't know Briana was such a fool, Natalia would have thought she was deliberately trying to annoy her, 'Briana, are you trying to piss me off on purpose?"

Briana scratched her head. "Natalia, why are you suddenly so angry? How did I annoy you?"

Natalia glared at her, "I'm talking about Marcus' assistant."

Briana said, "His assistant works with him, so it's no big deal for her to enter his house"

Natalia was so angry that her chest hurt, and she spoke even more rudely, "His previous assistant was a middle-aged woman named Helena, and now it's a young and beautiful girl. Do you honestly believe she has no intentions toward your brother?"

Briana said, "But Ms. Stewart hasn't done anything wrong, has she?"

Natalia said, "You're my friend, and if you won't support me, why are you supporting someone else?"

"I support you, but we can't simply ignore what is right and wrong." Briana and Natalia grew up together, went to school together, and had been friends since childhood. She cherished the friendship very much..

In the past, Natalia would tell her what to do, and she would do it, even the nasty words she had taught her before.

But the old Natalia wouldn't get angry with her and would listen to her opinions. She didn't know what was wrong with Natalia today.

"Briana, I'm sorry. It's my fault." Natalia hugged Briana and apologized in time. Before becoming the lady of the Hartley family, Briana was still important to her.

1 forgive you "Briana smiled, and the two went back to their old relationship.

Inside the villa,

Cornelia saw Marcus' way of rejecting women again and couldn't help but secretly admire him.

Men could recognize hypocritical women; they just knowingly committed the wrong actions.

Marcus asked, "What are you laughing at?"

Cornelia quickly stopped smiling and replied, "Was I laughing?"
Marcus paused for a moment. Then he said, "I have nothing to do with that woman."

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Cornelia didn't understand why Marcus had to explain himself to her, feeling a little nervous, "President Hartley, this is your business, no need to tell me

Marcus was also clueless but didn't want her to misunderstand

To break the ice. Cornelia quickly changed the subject to work stuff, President Hartley, the plan is set. I need to go check out the site"

Marcus said. "I've already handed that over to Ben. Come with me to a place later"

Cornelia knew Marcus had no work today. She was unsure of where they were going but agreed anyway.

They went to the garage, where more than a dozen luxury cars parked.

Marcus didn't call a driver. Cornelia thought he wanted her to drive, so she headed straight for the Bentley he usually rode in.

But Marcus walked towards another dark gray sports car, "We'll take this one today, and I'll drive."

Cornelia didn't dare let the boss drive himself, and besides, the sports car only had two seats. She would have to sit in the passenger seat if he drove the car.

She once heard that women shouldn't casually sit in a guy's passenger seat. A spouse or girlfriend usually sat there

Considering this, she was even more reluctant to let him drive, "President Hartley, wouldn't it be inappropriate for you to drive?"

Marcus said, "I will be dealing with personal matters today. I need your help. But don't worry. I'll pay you triple the salary."

Cornelia heard "triple salary," and her eyes lit up. She immediately sat in the passenger seat. "President Hartley, just tell me what you need me to do, and I'll get it done."

Seeing her so excited, Marcus cracked a slight smile.

Not long after the car left the villa area, he drove onto the highway.

The car sped along the road, both fast and steady. Cornelia was amazed, "President Hartley, I've been working with you for half a year, and this is the first time I've seen you drive. I did expect you to be such a good driver."

He said, "I used to love racing. I was a race car driver."

"You were a race car driver?" Cornelia didn't know that.

"If it weren't for my family needing me, maybe I'd be a top race car driver right now." He chuckled, and Cornelia saw the bitterness in his smile.

So, he had his dreams too, but they were less important than the family business.

Cornelia believed that someone like him, who excels at everything, would become a top racer if he pursued it.

About an hour later, they arrived at Opulent Oasis.

The car passed through winding mountain roads, and stopped at a roadblock. When the police saw Marcus' car, they let them through.

After the roadblock, they drove for another ten minutes, and suddenly a stunning scene of blooming flowers appeared before them.

Behind the sea of flowers were pavilions and towers shrouded in mist, like a fairyland.

They parked the car, a young and handsome valet took it away, and an attendant led them into the courtyard.

They passed the front yard, then walked along a cobblestone path. The backyard had a completely different vibe

There were flowers, rockeries, and fountains

The sound of men and women laughing and playing cards came from behind a folding screen. It was a lively scene.

Walking around the screen, they saw three couples sitting around card tables.

These three gorgeous couples seemed like prominent people because of their distinctive demeanors.

Cornelia quickly searched her memory for their information, but couldn't recall any of them.

They looked at her and Marcus and said, "Marcus, you finally made it."

Chapter 50

Marcus chuckled. "Sorry for keeping you all waiting!"

The guy on the left also laughed. "We get it. You two haven't seen each other for a while, so you must have lots to catch up on "

They seemed more interested in Cornelia than Marcus. Introduce us to your partner.

This is my friend Cornelia, Marcus said. He said friend instead of an assistant.

All three men asked simultaneously, "Friend? Just a friend?"

Cornelia miled, "I'm Mr. Hartley's assistant."

Marcus heard Cornelia eagerly explaining her identity, and his eyes dimmed slightly. He introduced her, "Cornelia, this is Xavier Rivera from the Capital and his wife, Skyler Steven Doron from Harbor City and his wife, Hannah. And Lucas Duncan from Serenity Bay and his wife, Rosie

Cornelia hadn't met these people before, but she could tell from their names that they were all important people

Indeed, influential people have influential friends and good-looking people have good-looking friends.

There had been rumors that the Hartley Group and Steven from Harbor City had conflicts. However, judging from their conversation, they were old friends.

After greeting the three people. Cornelia heard Steven, who sat in the middle, say, "Marcus, we all brought our wives. What's the deal with you bringing your assistant?"

Yeah Why would Marcus bring his assistant to such a private gathering?

Can't he see how awkward she is now?

Marcus gave a straightforward answer. "My wife and I aren't getting along, and were preparing for a divorce. But you insisted I bring a female companion, so I had to ask a friend for help! Upon hearing the news, everyone showed surprise, and finally, Steven asked on behalf of everyone, "You're getting a divorce? Last time you specifically went to Paris and spent 20 million on a necklace for her. Now you're getting a divorce?"

Marcus' answer was still simple, "We're not getting along"

He didn't want to say more, and no one else asked further.

Seeing Cornelia's embarrassment, Hannah kindly helped her out, "We all know each other here, Ms. Stewart, no need to be nervous."

How could Cornelia relax at such a private event? Nevertheless, she nodded and said, "Alright

"Dear, you guys chat. We'll take Cornelia to get some food." The three young and beautiful ladies took Cornelia to the dining area.

There were only a few guests at the restaurant, but there was a lot of food.

Cornelia hadn't had much lunch, so she was indeed hungry.

She picked up some of her favorite snacks and asked the chef to prepare a lobster.

Watching Cornelia enjoy her dessert, Hannah said enviously, "Cornelia, how do you manage to eat so much without gaining weight?"

Hannah only had a small steak, a small piece of fruit, and vegetables. She didn't even dare to think about sweets.

As long as you burn more calories than you consume daily. You won't gain weight." Cornelia looked up at her, feeling she looked familiar.

After thinking carefully, Cornelia finally remembered who she was, "You're the super popular star, Hannah, right?"

Hannah laughed, 'Oh my, I'm flattered you could recognize me without makeup.'

"You look even more beautiful than on TV Cornelia was a big fan of Hannah's TV shows. She was young, pretty, and talented.

Cornelia remembered her public image as single, and there had been rumors that she had found a rich boy friend. She didn't know she was already married, and that her husband's film company ranked first in the country.

Steven came over and sat down next to Hannah as they were chatting. He wrapped his arm around her slender waist and kissed her.

After the kiss, Hannah picked up the last piece of steak and fed it to him, their actions sweet and intimate.

Cornelia had never seen such a scene, instinctively turning her head away, but inadvertently met Marcus' gaze.