

Heartstrings On Fire Chapter 31 - 40

Chapter 31

This was the first time Agnes had seen Jared in casual wear. He was always prim and proper as if he lived in a bubble.

But now, dressed in a casual hoodie with a cartoon pattern, it felt like he was a different person. Just a piece of clothing made him seem a lot more approachable like he wasn't always on a pedestal.

Seeing Agnes staring at him, Jared asked, "What, isn't it pretty?"

Agnes quickly replied, "It suits you well. It makes you look a lot younger."

"You're saying I looked old before?"

This guy always picking a fight!

"Do you still want to eat the burger?" retorted Agnes.

Before he could reply, Agnes was already off, nimble as a deer, making her way into the bustling food street.

The street was a riot of lights and sounds, the smell of barbecue wafting in the air, a mix of spices creating an intoxicating aroma.

Without missing a beat, Agnes found "Burger Barn" in a quiet nook of the food street.

After finding a seat, Jared asked her curiously, "Where's the menu?"

Agnes chuckled, "What menu? This ain't that type of place."

And with that, she hollered towards the entrance, "Hey boss, two of your signature beef burger meals. The big one."

"Alright!" the boss called back amidst the hustle and bustle.

The burgers arrived quickly, and Agnes, famished, took a big bite, letting out a satisfied sigh. “This is the best burger I’ve ever had. Every bite is full of juicy beef and veggies. It’s so satisfying.

Jared took his time, taking a small bite of his burger.

Agnes watched him expectantly, “How is it? Good, right?”

To Jared, it tasted pretty average.

But seeing Agnes’ bright, hopeful eyes, he calmly said, “It’s not bad.”

Agnes’ eyes lit up, a hint of smugness flashing in them. “You fancy folks who are used to high-end food, you’ll find these simple delights delicious occasionally.”

Jared replied, “If you like **it**, we can come more often.”

Agnes looked up, getting lost in Jared’s deep gaze. His voice was gentle. His casual words made her heart race.

She felt there must be something wrong with her heart, as it seemed to beat wildly at the smallest things.

To divert her attention, Agnes started a new topic, “Um...could you do me a favour?”

She clearly saw Jared’s frown upon hearing that.

Before she could ask for help, he seemed repulsed. It seemed like hope was thin.

Jared began, “I don’t appreciate being addressed as ‘um’. If you need help, at least address me properly, or I’ll think you’re not sincere.”

So he was bothered by that.

Agnes quickly responded with a smile, “Mr. Whitfield, Mr. CEO, Mr. Handsome, Mr. Whitfield...”

Jared shook his head, “Still not sincere enough.”

“Then what do you want me to call you?”

“Try calling me ‘husband“.” Jared said coolly.

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Agnes paused, then blushed. She can't say husband.

Although they were now worthy of the name, Agnes always felt that the relationship between them had developed to this day, which was really incredible.

Agnes mumbled something twice and didn't call **out**.

Jared looked at Agnes's shyness, but he didn't force her. Instead, he asked, “Come on, what is it?”

Agnes sighed in relief and quickly said, “Our school Journalism Society is doing an interview with Big Shot and wants to invite you as a guest.”

Jared's face had not changed, and his voice was light: “I never accept media interviews.”

Agnes knew, of course, so she didn't have much hope in her heart.

But then Jared added, “I'll see if I can make time tomorrow.”

Agnes was surprised. Jared agreed to this?

However, Agnes felt that this matter should not be taken too seriously. After all, Jared was so busy.

The next day, Agnes had an early class.

After class, Lily, the president of the Journalism Society, called a meeting.

When Agnes arrived at the lecture theater, a bunch of people from the Journalism Society surrounded Jenny.

Their faces were filled with admiration.

“Jenny, it’s really amazing that you can really invite Jared. Our Journalism Society can be regarded as proud in the four major societies.

“Jenny, to be honest, what is your background? President Mr. Whitfield should give you such a face. Have you known each other **for** a long time?”

“Jenny, you attended Tim’s birthday party yesterday. What was the scene? Tell us about it?”

Jenny’s eyes were full of stars, and she looked proud. She just glanced at Agnes, who just came in, and her expression froze for a second.

Lily stepped onto the podium and patted the table: “Quiet! Have a meeting now.”

Everyone found a place to do it.

Lily said: “Just in the morning, the Secretariat of the Tim Group contacted our Journalism Society and said that Mr. Whitfield was willing to be interviewed by our club at 3 pm for half an hour. This matter is of great significance to our club. I am as excited as you. Of course, it is all due to vice president Jenny.”

When she said this, Lily took the lead in applauding, and others in the classroom followed suit and congratulated Jenny.

Agnes looked puzzled. When did this become Jenny’s credit?

Lily continued: “Since Jenny has won such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our club, we must cherish it. I have already driven out the interview draft, and the interview task is still given to Jenny. I believe she will be able to complete the task well.”

Everyone was envious. To interview Jared was simply what the media people dream of doing.

Lily handed the manuscript to Jenny. When she walked beside Agnes, she added: “Agnes, you continue to assist Jenny. Later, you will get the equipment. Jenny said that you have helped a lot this time. It’s hard.”

Agnes said: “I quit this interview. President, you’d better find someone else.”

When the meeting was over, Agnes was the first to go out.

However, she still vaguely heard Jenny’s wronged and weak voice: “She is the daughter of a nobleman. How can she be wronged to carry equipment for me, I know that Agnes has always wanted to be the anchor of this interview.”

Others comforted her: “This is an opportunity you have worked hard for, and it should be your glory, unlike some people who want **to** get it for nothing.”

Agnes was very upset.

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gidry.

She wasn’t exactly hunting for credit or glory, but it didn’t sit well with her seeing Jenny reaping rewards she hadn’t worked for.

The last class in the morning was a specialized course, and Agnes and Jenny were in the same room, meeting again.

After class, Jenny didn’t leave, and neither did Agnes.

When the last soul left the room, Jenny came over and asked, “Are you ticked off that I stole your credit?”

Agnes said, “Jenny, don’t you think that’s a tad unfair?”

Jenny just chuckled, “Unfair? Agnes, you and I are worlds apart. I don’t have a posh family to back me up. Everything I have, I’ve had to claw for. So, what if I’ve to stoop a little to get what I want? You silver–spoon types were born with everything. As for me, I’ve had to fight tooth and nail. It’s not me being unfair. It’s life.”

Agnes shot back, “Who knew you had such a warped view of things.”

Jenny just laughed, “Agnes, you can’t blame others. It’s all on you for being too perfect. You were born with a silver spoon, beautiful, smart, top grades, a boyfriend who adores you. And me? I’m scraping by, living a life worse than your pet dog. But aside from my family situation, where do I fall short compared to you? Why should I let you walk all over me?”

Agnes was stumped, “When have I ever walked all over you? I’ve always treated you as my best friend.”

“That’s just your pity. You’re friends with me just to flaunt your kindness. It must be quite a rush, huh? Being such a perfect person and being friends with someone like me who’s just trying to survive! You must feel so noble. Agnes, admit it. You look down on me, don’t you?”

Agnes retorted, “It’s all in your head. It’s your own low self–esteem that makes you think the world’s against you.

Agnes didn’t want to argue anymore. Jenny’s views were just too extreme.

As Agnes got up to leave, Jenny grabbed her arm, “Jared is mine **to** interview. Don’t you dare to stand in the way of my bright future.

Before Agnes could respond, Jenny continued, “Even if you spill the beans, no one would believe you. They’ll just think you’re trying to steal my achievements. Agnes, you’ve got so much already, but Elton’s love and a bright future, they’ll all be mine in the end.”

At the mention of Elton, Agnes’ heart skipped a beat.

Jenny knew this was Agnes’sore spot, so she always took a chance to bring it up.

Agnes’s voice turned icy, “Then I wish you a successful interview this afternoon.”

Jenny gloated, “Of course, it’ll be successful. And the Presidency of the Journalism Society will be mine. Agnes, I really should thank you.”

With that, Jenny strutted out of the room.

Watching Jenny’s retreating figure, Agnes expressionlessly pulled out her phone, hesitated for a moment, and dialled a number...

After lunch in the cafeteria, Agnes went to the study room.

When she didn’t have classes, Agnes liked to hang out in the library.

But around three in the afternoon, Agnes got a call from Lily.

Picking up the call, Agnes said, “President, what can I do for you?”

Lily sounded quite flustered, “Agnes, you need to get to Tim Tower right away. Mr. Whitfield specifically asked for you to do the interview. I was in the dark earlier that you were the one who landed this opportunity. We’ll discuss that later. You need to get here ASAP.”

Chapter 34

After hanging up the phone, Agnes felt a sense of relief. Everything was going according to her plan.

She had just gotten off the phone with Jared.

Agnes gathered her stuff and made her way straight to Tim Tower

Tim Tower was the city’s landmark in the city center.

Agnes knew the place like the back of Her hand and went straight up to the 60th floor by the elevator. That’s where Jared’s office was.

The Journalism Society members were all waiting in the lounge.

When Lily saw Agnes showing up at the door, she looked like she had just seen a life-saver.

“Agnes, get ready quickly. Here’s the interview script. You’re tasked with interviewing Mr. Whitfield. The interview has been rescheduled to 4:30. You have an hour to prepare. Thanks for your hard work, Agnes.”

Agnes took the script and said, ‘Don’t worry, President Lily. I’ll do my best.’”

As Agnes finished her words, she scanned the lounge and locked eyes with Jenny.

Jenny seemed to have tear stains on her face, and two people were comforting her.

For a moment, Agnes saw the resentment from Jenny’s eyes, but she quickly concealed it, then she turned to a look of injustice and weakness. This very act of Jenny had once deceived Agnes.

After that, Agnes devoted her time to preparing for the interview. At 4:30, she began her formal interview with–Jared.

As a matter of fact, this was Agnes’ first time as an interviewer. She was extremely nervous internally. But because Jared was the interviewee, she felt secure in her heart. The interview went smoothly, and Agnes performed professionally.

After the interview, Agnes stood up, tripped over the equipment cords, and almost fell.

Luckily, Jared reacted quickly and grabbed her hand.

Jared scolded her in a low voice, “Watch your step. You’re still as clumsy as a child.”

Agnes quickly withdrew her hand from Jared’s, glancing around.

Everyone was busy packing up their equipment. Thankfully, no one noticed the incident.

Jared’s affectionate tone might have caused misunderstandings, if anyone had seen it.

However, Jenny, who was standing in the corner, saw everything.

The more she watched, the more she felt something was off between Agnes and Jared.

Just as everyone was ready to leave, Jenny suddenly approached Jared and asked, “Mr. Whitfield, If I may, can I ask a personal question on behalf of all the girls in Willowbrook Town. Do you have a girlfriend?”

Jenny's question was abrupt but instantly caught everyone's attention.

Though it was a personal question, which big shots usually despise, it was also the question everyone was dying to know.

Everyone held their breath, uncertain whether Jared would answer or get angry

Agnes knew better than anyone that Jenny was just getting suspicious and wanted to confirm it in public.

At this moment, if Jared admitted, it would at least prove that something was going on between him and Agnes.

If he denied it, it would mean that, despite their unusual relationship, Agnes didn't hold an important place in his heart.

Jenny was leaning towards the latter. Jared once mentioned in front of her and Elton that he was Agnes' boyfriend.

But Jenny wasn't sure if it was true or false.

However, now, if Jared could deny their relationship in front of everyone, it would mean that even if they were close, Jared was not serious about Agnes and was just playing with her feelings.

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Jared fell silent for a moment His expression didn't change a bit.

Then he said, "Before I answer your question, Miss Jenny, could you answer one for me?"

Jenny was slightly taken aback, not expecting Jared to turn the tables, and even more surprised that he had actually remembered her name.

Jenny replied, "Of course."

Jared calmly asked, "Miss Jenny, are you pregnant?"

The whole room was caught off guard by this question, Jared daring to ask such a question to a sophomore female student.

Everyone thought, ‘Damn, Jared really lives up to his name as the youngest CEO‘ He could have chosen to dodge or ignore, but instead, he decided to hit back straight. Asking Jenny this question was no doubt a slap in the face.

To everyone else, Jared was telling Jenny that her question was just as impolite and intrusive as his.

But to Jenny, this question was a real gut punch.

The last time she publicly admitted her pregnancy in front of Jared and Agnes, the others didn’t know the truth.

If she admitted it, her reputation would be tarnished by all these reporters.

If she denied it, Agnes would inevitably have doubts.

But if she refused to answer, saying it was her own private matter, then Jared could also refuse to answer her question.

Jared was really something, leaving Jenny with practically no way out as if he pushed her to the edge of a cliff.

At this moment, Lily stepped forward to mediate, “Mr. Whitfield, our vice president Jenny was just joking. Please forgive a girl’s curiosity. It’s all out of respect for you. Please understand.”

Lily was gracious and polite, and Jared responded courteously, “I was just joking with her, too don’t worry about it.”

Lily continued, “Mr. Whitfield is very busy every day. We really appreciate the opportunity you gave us for this interview. We won’t bother you anymore.

With that, she led everyone out of the CEO’s **office**.

Lily practically dragged Jenny out.

Once inside the elevator, Lily asked, “Jenny, what happened to you today? Why did you ask **such** a personal question? If Mr. Whitfield got upset, all our previous efforts would have been **for** nothing.”

Jenny hung her head in seeming regret, “That’s the question everyone is most concerned about. It would definitely boost the news click rate, right? I just wanted to give it ‘a try. I didn’t expect **it to** backfire, I’m sorry.”

As Jenny finished, tears rolled down her cheeks, “I know I let everyone down, and I let Agnes down the most. Mr. Whitfield agreed to the interview. I thought it was because I persuaded him. I didn’t realize that he agreed because of Agnes. Agnes is quite beautiful: She indeed has a kind of... charm that commands respect from men.... In the end, was too arrogant, almost stealing the credit from Agnes. It’s all my fault.”

As Jenny spoke, she started crying harder, her face full of regret.

Lily was initially annoyed but now felt compelled to comfort her, “It’s okay. I know you didn’t mean it. You’ve been working hard for the club, I know. But you should apologize to Agnes.”

Without any hesitation, Jenny walked up to Agnes, her face sincere and her eyes filled with tears, “Agnes, I’m sorry. **Can** you forgive me? I didn’t mean to take credit from you. You can ask the president. I specifically asked her to mention your name if the interview was successful.”

Lily stepped in, “That’s true. Jenny mentioned it to me twice. I believe she didn’t mean any harm. You guys are good friends and core members of The Journalism Society. I don’t want this incident to sour your relationship.”

Chapter 36

Agnes was genuinely in awe of Jenny’s adaptability. The phrase “better bend than break” couldn’t be more fitting for her.

attracted

She hinted at that Agnes had a charm that attracted men, which was actually a way of saying that Jared only gave her the interview because he was drawn to her good looks. This insinuation gave **Jenny** a way out, and she looked so innocent. If Agnes made a fuss now, it would make her seem petty and unreasonable.

Although Agnes was displeased, she didn’t want a spat with Jenny

The thought of the woman **in** front of her being a dear friend she had once sincerely cared for felt like a stab in the heart.

Agnes generously said, “It’s no biggie I’ll add your name after the interview”

Jenny seemed a bit taken aback.

Agnes continued, “Getting to interview Jared was a collective effort from The Journalism Society. It wasn’t a solo contribution. So, President, I hope the final byline includes all members of The Journalism Society”

Lily was thrilled upon hearing this She knew once the magazine was published, it would cause a big stir. Having her name on such a piece was crucial for her resume.

Lily said, “Agnes, I didn’t expect you to be so generous. Thank you!”

Agnes glanced at Jenny, a flash of resentment in her eyes.

Who didn’t know how to put on a show and feign generosity? Agnes just didn’t bother **in** the past.

After exiting the elevator, Jenny said, “You all worked hard today. Let me treat you to dinner tonight. How about Cloud View?”

Everyone was surprised at the mention of Cloud View.

It was one of the most luxurious restaurants **in** the city, typically patronized by the rich and powerful. Ordinary people couldn’t afford it.

The other members of The Journalism Society were also excited, “Cloud View, I heard the cheapest dish there costs an average person’s monthly wage!”

*Jenny, you’re indeed a rich missy, so generous.”

Jenny walked up to Agnes, “Agnes, please come and consider it my way of apologizing.”

If Agnes refused, she would appear petty.

So, in the end, Agnes went to Cloud View with everyone.

Agnes knew about Jenny’s family situation and wondered why she was splashing the cash. But Agnes didn’t say much.

The dinner surprisingly cost two thousand dollars.

When it came to paying the bill, Jenny pulled out a black card.

People who owned this black card were a minority in the **city**, all top-tier tycoons. Everyone was surprised.

Jenny usually seemed low-key. Who knew she was a really rich girl?

But Agnes recognized it in an instant. It was Elton's black card.

Lily said, "Jenny, your card is something else. To my knowledge, no more than ten people in the entire city have this card."

Jenny deliberately placed the black card on the table in front of Agnes, then said, "Really? I didn't know. It's a birthday **gift** from my boyfriend. I just treat it like a regular credit card."

This piqued everyone's interest.

Someone said, "Jenny, your boyfriend must be something to gift a black card casually."

Others said, "So envy, your boyfriend must really love you, Jenny. We'd love to meet **him**."

Jenny blushed, "He'll pick me up in a bit."

Everyone exclaimed in unison, "Jenny, you're so lucky."

Just then, the door to the private room was pushed open.

A tall figure stood at the door.

Jenny quickly said, "He's here."

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Just like everyone else, Agnes whipped her head towards the door.

And there he was, Elton

Elton saw Agnes as well

Earlier on, Jenny had called him about get together with her classmates and asked him to pick her up. He didn't want to go, but Jenny mentioned **that** Agnes would be there. So, he decided **to** show up

Deep down, Elton knew that there was no way in hell Agnes could ever forgive him.

But damn, it's been a long time since he last saw Agnes. He missed her.

Agnes instantly frowned when she saw Elton. She should've known. Jenny being all generous today was just a plot to piss her off.

Jenny was already got up and about walking over to the entrance, took Elton's arm affectionately and introduced him to everyone. "This is my boyfriend, Elton."

Everyone there was majoring in journalism and knew that Elton was the heir to their family conglomerate. He was the golden goose everyone in the entertainment industry wanted to know. His love scandals would occasionally make the entertainment news headlines, but he once cleared the air publicly, stating that he had a childhood sweetheart. Who would've thought that Jenny was Elton's so-called childhood sweetheart?

Elton's gaze, however, was still fixed on Agnes. Jenny shook his arm, "Elton, these are all my Journalism Society mates. Say hi."

It was as if Elton snapped back to reality, pulling his arm away from Jenny's grasp.

Then he walked towards Agnes.

“Agnes, how have you been?” Elton suddenly asked.

Everyone was amazed. Elton didn't even glance at his girlfriend. Instead, he was saying hi to Agnes.

Agnes' mood plummeted the moment Elton appeared.

Someone beside her curiously asked, “Elton, you know Agnes too?”

At that moment, Jenny sauntered, linking arms with Elton and said, “Me, Elton, Agnes, we've known each other since we were kids. We've been friends for many years.”

Everyone seemed to understand now. Agnes and Jenny were close friends.

So it made sense for Agnes to know Jenny's boyfriend, and Agnes herself was a rich heiress.

Agnes didn't say anything, picked up her bag and was about to leave. She said to everyone, “I have to go back first.”

Agnes left in a hurry. Elton wanted to follow her but was held back by Jenny

Jenny leaned into Elton's ear and whispered, “If you chase after her now and stir up a scandal, I guarantee Agnes will hate you even more.”

Elton glanced back at Jenny, but she had a smile on her face. She gently said, “Elton, you're so busy, but you still came to pick me up. You're so good to me.”

Everyone watched this seemingly perfect couple, feeling a pang of envy.

Once Agnes stepped out of the restaurant, she felt awful.

For some reason, she missed Jared terribly. Was he still working overtime?”

Would he be coming back to Maplewood Manor tonight?

Just as Agnes was contemplating whether to call Jared, she saw a text from him,

[Melbourne, three days]

Upon seeing the message, Agnes felt a surge of disappointment. Jared was going on a business trip again.

Agnes went straight back to Maplewood Manor. The mansion was huge but felt empty.

The next day.

Jared's interview magazine was out.

Including the video of Jared's live interview, which was uploaded on the school's video website.

Suddenly, Lakeside College's website was flooded with visits due to this interview video, even crashing at one point.

Chapter 38

The Journalism Society **at** Lakeside College quickly made a name for themselves. They even received personal praise from the Dean. Their publication Big Shot got huge backing from the school, with many lining up for interviews, including some high profile socialites. For a campus media outlet to cause such a stir. It's almost unheard of

Almost every member **of** The Journalism Society became campus celebrities.

Of course, Agnes, the interview host, was immediately thrust right into the spotlight.

At first, Agnes didn't pay much mind to it

Until the topics about her switched from her family background to her private life, then to rumors of her being a kept woman.

During lunch, Kerri showed Agnes the gossip circulating on the forums: ‘Everyone’s saying Jared agreed to your interview because he’s your sugar daddy. Agnes, these rumours have been getting more rampant these past few days. Don’t you want to clear things up?’”

Agnes was eating her favourite ribs in sauce. After a glance, she simply said: “Let it be. The innocent need not explain. Given time, these rumours will fade.”

Kerri sighed “All you care about is eating. You’re a journalism student, don’t you know that rumours stop with the wise? I bet someone’s just jealous and trying to smear your name. I can’t believe you’re taking it so lightly.”

It’s not that she was taking it lightly. Agnes knew that someone must be stoking the fire.

The first post was anonymous, but the follow-up posts were already in the hundreds.

But Agnes knew, this rumour probably had Jenny’s fingerprints all over it.

The rumours of her being kept were heating up.

When Agnes walked around, she always got weird looks.

She thought she could ignore it, but being the target of constant scrutiny and gossip, Agnes was really bummed out..

One evening, Agnes was studying in the library, surrounded by noise.

Through the murmur, Agnes could hear her name and the word kept woman.

Agnes felt she couldn't even stay in the quiet library anymore. So she packed up and decided to head straight back to Maplewood Manor..

Just as she was leaving the campus, Agnes suddenly remembered that Jared was supposed to be back from his business trip to Willowbrook Town today.

Suddenly, Agnes checked the flight schedule from Melbourne to Willowbrook Town.

The last flight was arriving in half an hour.

And it just happened that the drive from the school to Willowbrook Town airport was also half an **hour**.

Agnes hesitated for a moment, then grabbed a cab straight to Willowbrook International Airport.

When Agnes arrived, the plane hadn't **landed** yet, supposedly delayed due to the weather.

Agnes figured since she was there, she might as well wait in the terminal.

Little did she know, she ended up waiting for four hours.

Jared didn't arrive until midnight. By that time, Agnes had already dozed off in her chair.

Jared gently woke her up.

Agnes opened her eyes to see Jared's handsome face.

Once she woke up, she rubbed her eyes and said: "You're here. I came to pick you up."

Jared looked at Agnes with a gaze different from usual, his voice low and tender: "Why didn't you text me ahead of time?"

Agnes smiled: “I want to give you a surprise. But I didn’t expect to oversleep. How did you know I was here?”

Jared took off his coat and draped it over Agnes’ shoulders: “Your sleeping posture is so unique. How could I not recognize you.”

Agnes was speechless.

In reality, when Jared walked out, there were already many people **in** the hall.

But he spotted Agnes right away. She was curled up in a corner like a little kitten, fast asleep.

n that moment, his heart wavered as if gently touched by **a** feather.

How long had this girl been waiting here?

Chapter 39

Agnes trailed **behind** Jared as **they** left the airport.

For some reason, **she** felt a bit deflated.

Jared didn’t look surprised or excited to see her, not even a bit.

But Agnes noticed that Jared was walking a bit faster than usual

So, was he eager to get home?

Jared’s private car was already waiting for them outside the airport.

However, Jared instructed his driver Moss, “Hand me the keys. I’ll drive and you can take a cab home.”

Moss exited the car, and Jared slid into the driver's seat.

Agnes quietly opened the back door, ready to get in.

“Sit in the front,” Jared suddenly said.

Agnes obediently closed the back door and opened the front passenger door.

She asked herself, “Does it really matter where I sit?”

After buckling her seatbelt, Agnes noticed Jared hadn't started the car yet. Instead, he was gazing at her with a strange look.

His eyes were deep and mysterious, like the sea at night. It felt like she could drown in them with just one glance.

Feeling uncomfortable under his gaze, Agnes asked, “What are you looking at? Is there something on my face?”

With a serious tone, Jared said, “Yeah, come here, let me wipe it off.”

Thinking that she really had something on her face, Agnes leaned in

Unexpectedly, Jared leaned over and kissed her. The kiss was full of dominance.

Agnes could even feel Jared's desire. However, she was still a bit shy.

They were parked in the open-air parking lot at the airport, surrounded by people and cars coming and going.

Although she knew that Jared's car windows were made from a special material that made it impossible for people outside to see, Agnes was still a **bit** embarrassed. She pulled Jared's hand from under her clothes and said, “Can we go home first. please?”

Her face was slightly flushed, and her eyes were filled with affection. It was clear that she was also moved.

Jared had always thought he had good self-control, but for some reason, he couldn't resist Agnes's kitten-like eyes.

But he knew Agnes was shy. He wanted to have her right there, to love her deeply.

Suppressing his desire, Jared once again kissed Agnes and said, Til let you off **this** time, but you'll have to make it up to me twice over.

After saying this, he carefully straightened out her dishevelled clothes.

As the car sped away, Agnes's mood suddenly lifted.

Even the unpleasant experiences at school seemed to vanish.

They drove directly into Maplewood Manor.

As soon as they entered, Jared scooped Agnes into his arms.

Agnes let out a startled yelp but instinctively wrapped her arms around Jared's neck.

The kissing started again. It had only been three days, but it felt like they hadn't seen each other for three months.

Agnes admitted that she had missed him terribly over these three days..

That deep emotion **that** surprised even her seemed to find comfort only in **their** kisses and release in their body contact.

Agnes's cheeks flushed as she responded to him.

They went from the entrance to the staircase, down the corridor to the bedroom, and finally landed on the soft bed.

Jared whispered in her ear, deep and powerful, “Did you miss me?”

“Yes, Agnes replied honestly.

“Do you love me?”

“Yes,” Agnes’s mind was starting to get fuzzy.

At that moment, Agnes felt like she was in a dream, not even knowing what she was saying...

Day two.

Chapter 40

Agnes **blinked** her eyes open to the sight of a handsome face.

Preston’s company, Starlight International Group, had a star actor named Justin, who, according to his fans, was a man to make women’s hearts flutter.

Agnes had seen him once at last year’s **annual** meeting and thought he was super hunky

When she saw Justin, she thought he was the most attractive man she’d ever seen.

But now, looking at Jared’s face, she felt he was even more good-looking than Justin. Even the contour of his jawline was perfect

Agnes could feel her heartbeat picking up speed.

At this moment, Jared had opened his eyes.

When their eyes met, Agnes felt nervousness.

But she **put** on a brave face and smiled, “um, Good morning.”

Jared frowned, “My name isn’t ‘um‘.”

Agnes corrected herself, “Good morning, Mr. Whitfield.”

“Agnes, do we need to be so formal with each other?”

He called her Agnes. It sounded very natural in comparison.

This wasn’t the first time they’d had this talk.

But Agnes was just too shy to call him ‘honey‘.

Suddenly, Agnes had an idea, “Then I’ll call you Jared.”

Agnes thought this was a great idea. It felt very personal.

Agnes had gotten up, “Jared, I have to go to class.”

Jared: “.....”

Agnes was in a rush. She didn’t have time for breakfast..

As Agnes was preparing to leave, Jared handed her a bank card.

Agnes was surprised, “What’s this about?”

Jared explained, “This is your living expenses. I’ll top it up every month. I’m usually busy. You can use it to buy whatever you like.”

Although Agnes and Jared were officially married, she had not used a single penny of his money until now. Except that she was now living in Jared’s house.

Agnes didn’t like this feeling, “I’m not short of money. People at school are saying you’re my sugar daddy. If I accept this, wouldn’t it be like you’re really my sugar daddy?” Jared frowned, “People at school are saying I’m keeping you?”

Agnes didn’t actually want to tell Jared about this, but it slipped out.

Jared asked, “Do you want me to handle it?”

Agnes quickly said, “Forget it. It’s just some boring gossip. It’ll die down in a few days.”

If Jared got involved, it might make things messier.

Looking at the bank card, Agnes said, “I really don’t need money or the card. I have to go to class.

With that, Agnes left.

Not long after Agnes left, Jared made a call, “Be in my office at nine.”

Agnes didn’t sleep well last night and spent the entire morning dozing off in class.

The moment class ended, she went to the cafeteria to grab lunch with Kerri.

Kerri studied Agnes carefully, “You look exhausted. Your dark circles are pretty noticeable. Agnes, you really look like you’re overworked.”

Agnes finally shook off her morning fatigue and almost replied, ‘How did you know?’

But before she could say anything, Kerri seemed to remember something, “Sorry Agnes, I forgot you and **Elton** broke up.”

In the past, whenever Elton was mentioned, it felt like a knife to Agnes’s heart. But strangely, this time Agnes **found** herself feeling calm.

Agnes smiled, “It’s okay. It’s all in the past now.”