

Heartstrings On Fire Chapter 61 - 70

Chapter 61

But Agnes didn't dwell on it too much, because the 20k was already enough to give her a headache.

Agnes wasn't strapped for cash, but she did get her allowance transferred to her bank account by Laura each month.

The money was just enough to cover her monthly expenses. But how was she supposed to handle the sudden influx of this extra 20k?

Ask Laura? No way, Agnes couldn't do that.

Agnes thought of Jared, but quickly knocked herself on the head. She absolutely wouldn't ask Jared for money either.

When Agnes got home, she started job hunting in the evening. Eventually, she found a job at an entertainment newspaper.

This society, known as "CHERRY", was actually a team dedicated to tracking down juicy gossip on famous celebrities.

Agnes was a journalism student, and in this field, entertainment reporters were at the bottom of the food chain.

But Agnes needed the money, and this job offered a hefty commission. Given Agnes background, the editor-in-chief, Siam, immediately greenlit her interview and made her an assistant to Ben.

Ben was the top in CHERRY, a veteran entertainment reporter who was pretty well-known in the business. He was the first to leak the news about A-list actress Virginia's secret marriage and child. Many celebrities had a bone to pick with him.

Ben had a mission today, so he brought Agnes with him to Willowbrook International Airport.

After a two-hour stakeout in the car, Agnes couldn't hold her tongue anymore. "Who the heck are we shooting today?"

Taking a drag of his cigarette, Ben answered, "Mamie."

Agnes gasped, "Isn't she in Hollywood shooting a new movie with director Cameron?"

Mamie was undoubtedly a top-tier celeb. She started her career at 16, and in ten years, her career skyrocketed with countless awards. She was also internationally recognized as one of the most beautiful women. In recent years, she began breaking into Hollywood, and her market value steadily climbed, especially after becoming the lead actress in Cameron's movie, which raised eyebrows worldwide.

Besides, Mamie was the daughter of the Bartley family, one of the Four Families of Willowbrook, so she was kind of a big deal.

The Bartley family was a dynasty in the entertainment industry, with their "Century Entertainment" holding a major stake in the industry, which always overshadowed her father's Starlight International Group.

Ben casually mentioned, "I heard that Mamie has finished shooting the movie and is returning home today. If all goes well, we might snag some juicy gossip."

Agnes asked, "What kind of gossip? Her super-secret boyfriend?"

Ben raised an eyebrow at Agnes and said, “You’re sharp.”

Agnes was intrigued. This rumor had been circulating for a while that Mamie had a mysterious boyfriend; there were even whispers of a secret marriage. But this mysterious man had never been caught on camera, becoming one of the biggest mysteries in the entertainment world.

After another two-hour wait, Agnes was dozing off but was abruptly woken up by Ben: “She’s out, quick, snap some pics!”

Agnes was quick on her feet, picked up her DSLR, focused, and started shooting non-stop..

Agnes was beside herself with excitement because Mamie indeed appeared with a man, and she was even arm in arm with him.

But after a few shots, Agnes suddenly froze like she was under a spell, unable to move a muscle.

Agnes fixated on the man in her telephoto lens, the one who was arm in arm with Mamie.

It was Jared!

Chapter 62

The person in the frame quickly got into a black van.

“I’ll drive; you start filming whenever there’s a chance,” Ben said

Ben quickly started the car and followed the van closely

Agnes, however, was caught off guard. Her heart was pounding so hard that it felt like it was about to jump out of her chest.

The van stopped at the World International Hotel.

Ben, with his many resources, drove directly into the hotel.

The car stopped in the hotel's open-air parking lot. Ben made a phone call and then told Agnes, "They're in the presidential suite, room 3001:

Ben said after some thought, "I'll book a room for you on the third floor, right across from 3001. These two rooms are the closest, with only two meters separating the balconies. Starting tomorrow, you'll stake out on the balcony. I don't believe they'll keep the curtains closed all day. The moment you get a chance, no matter what's going on inside, shoot it all."

Agnes didn't expect that covering tabloid news would cost this much. The room opposite 3001 was also a presidential suite.

Ben arranged everything and explained precautions to Agnes, for instance, how to react if discovered and the hotel's quickest exit routes.

"Why don't you do it yourself since you're so familiar with this place?" Agnes asked.

Ben scratched his head awkwardly and said, "I've been blacklisted by this hotel a long time ago."

Agnes didn't expect to check into the World International Hotel just fifteen minutes later.

The room directly facing 3001 was actually a restaurant.

Agnes pulled back the heavy drapes of the floor-to-ceiling windows. Outside was indeed a unique balcony, with the closest part only two meters away from the opposite side. Below was a man-made lake.

Agnes was utterly confused. Why would it be Jared? How could it be Jared?

Ryder Whitfield had once casually mentioned that Jared had been in love with someone for many years. Could that person be Mamie?

Agnes stood on the balcony, staring blankly at the opposite side, only to find that the curtains were not fully closed, leaving a small gap.

Agnes aimed her telephoto lens at it. Although she could see the light and shadows inside, she couldn't capture them clearly.

According to Agnes's experience, this small gap was enough to see the situation clearly at close range.

Agnes was agile, and the two-meter distance shouldn't be a problem. Even if she couldn't make it across, there was a man-made lake below. Agnes could swim, so there was no danger to her life.

Agnes was torn because her professional ethics as a media person told her that what she was about to do was wrong.

Even paparazzi must shoot within legal boundaries.

If Agnes crossed over, she would be crossing the line.

But Agnes couldn't resist. She desperately wanted to know what the relationship between Jared and Mamie was. Not for the twenty thousand dollars reward, but because it felt like millions of ants were gnawing at her heart.

Agnes suddenly realized that she knew absolutely nothing about Jared—his past, his romantic life, absolutely nothing.

Agnes couldn't help it anymore; she took a camera and jumped over.

She moved swiftly, it wasn't hard.

But just as she landed, an alarm on the balcony suddenly went off.

Agnes was startled, she didn't expect the balcony to have an alarm.

The balcony door was quickly opened, and there was Jared's face in front of Agnes!

Agnes was really stumped—talk about rotten luck.

Chapter 63

Jared scowled at the way Agnes had landed, then looked behind her and instantly figured out how she got there.

“Agnes, you’ve got some nerve, aren’t you scared of getting in trouble?” Jared’s words were clearly laced with annoyance.

Caught red-handed, Agnes’s face turned as red as a beet, but she instinctively tightened her grip on her camera.

Jared saw it too and asked, “What on earth are you doing?”

Agnes replied, “I’m currently interning at a newspaper. My assignment is to cover Mamie’s itinerary and... her mystery boyfriend.”

Jared’s expression hardened even more, and he said coolly. “Delete it.”

Agnes had never seen Jared look so serious. His gaze was icy, sending shivers down her spine.

Agnes had deliberately mentioned the mystery boyfriend, hoping to hear Jared’s explanation or denial, but Jared didn’t..

Agnes held her camera and said, “This is my job, I won’t delete it.”

Jared’s face darkened. “Agnes, are you itching to see your husband and another woman on the front page of the news?”

Agnes retorted coldly. “You’ve got the guts to do it but not to own up, huh?”

“What exactly did I do?” Jared’s voice was icy.

“Jared, who are you talking to?” A woman’s voice echoed from inside the room.

Agnes’s gaze shifted from Jared to the room.

Mamie seemed to have just taken a bath, still dressed in a white bathrobe with her hair wet. Her beauty was undeniable; her skin was glowing, and her features were exquisite, like a painting come to life. She was breathtakingly beautiful. Every move she made was captivating.

Mamie now stood in front of Agnes, guessing her job from the camera hanging around Agnes’s neck.

Mamie frowned. “Are paparazzi now so adept at sneaking into people’s homes? How’d she get here?”

Jared’s face was stormy, but his voice was icily aloof: “She jumped over from the balcony opposite. Absolutely nuts.”

At that moment, the doorbell rang, and Mamie turned to answer it.

Jared spoke again: “You realize you messed up now?”

Agnes stubbornly remained silent. She knew sneaking shots was wrong. But if Mamie’s date wasn’t Jared, she wouldn’t have gone to such lengths.

Agnes firmly stated, “I didn’t do anything wrong. Paparazzi are people too; they need to work, and their existence is justified. You can say I’m just more. dedicated than most.”

Jared said, “Agnes, your justifications are plentiful. I really spoil you too much. If you don’t get a little taste of reality, you really think you can do whatever you damn well please, huh?”

At that moment, Mamie came over with a group of people.

The earlier alarm had alerted security, and the General Manager of the World International Hotel also came over. He kept apologizing, saying, “We are truly honored that Ms. Mamie chose our hotel. We deeply regret this situation. Paparazzi really are omnipresent, but it’s because you, Ms. Mamie, are so popular. We’ll take care of the rest, we’ll ensure this won’t happen again.”

Jared was still staring at Agnes when he asked, “I’ll ask you one last time: do you realize you screwed up?”

Agnes replied, “I didn’t do anything wrong, and I won’t delete the photos.”

Jared looked at Agnes silently for two seconds, then said, “Call the cops.”

Usually, when this kind of thing happened, hotels handled it privately. They contacted the newspaper, deleted the photos, apologized, and compensated. Problem solved. And celebrities usually didn't want to stir up trouble with the media.

But Mamie wasn't an average celeb. She's a national sweetheart.

Mamie was pretty chill about the whole thing "Let's call the cops then Investigate her newspaper and send them a lawyer's letter," she said.

The General Manager was all, Yes, yes," and had Agnes escorted out.

Now it's 4 a m. Agnes just got out of the police stationis interrogation room

Ben's already there. He didn't scold her. Instead, he comforted her. "Paparazzi end up at the police station all the time. You get used to it. But you really have guts to jump over a building like that. Remember, whatever you do, it's for a living, it's not worth risking your life."

Agnes said, "Did I cause trouble for the newspaper? I deleted all the photos.

Ben was like, "I saw this coming. The top brass got a call. Mamie's secret boyfriend is a big shot, and we can't afford to offend him. Even if you really got the scoop, it might not be made public. Think about it: why hasn't any media outlet been able to get proof all these years? Let it go, it's in the past now.

Don't sweat it."

Ben left. Agnes was still at the police station, just staring into space. The higher-ups ordered no bail for 24 hours.

Half an hour later, Jared showed up at the station.

Agnes was still holding a cup of water with her head down, seeing Jared's shoes slowly walk to her.

She didn't look up or stand. Pretended not to see him.

Jared reached out and patted Agnes's head. "Regret it yet?"

Agnes turned her head away. "Don't touch me. I don't know you."

Jared chuckled and said, "Let's go. We'll talk back home"

Agnes didn't budge. What she wanted was an explanation.

During her time at the police station, Agnes thought a lot. Maybe it wasn't that Jared wouldn't explain, but that he couldn't.

For so long, Jared had been so considerate to her that Agnes almost forgot that to others, he was untouchable.

Tonight, one photo revealed his true colors.

Thinking of Mamie in her bathrobe made Agnes feel sick.

Seeing Agnes unmoved, Jared's tone cooled. "Agnes, are you going to keep acting like this?"

Agnes suddenly got up and ran out.

Jared caught up with her and grabbed her arm at the station entrance. "What's gotten into you today?"

Agnes wanted to cry, but she held it in. She didn't want Jared to see. It would be too embarrassing.

Jared asked, "Agnes, don't you trust me?"

This left Agnes speechless. Trust that there's nothing special between him and Mamie? Agnes didn't distrust him, she distrusted her own judgment.

Their marriage was only a few months old, even impulsive. How could there be trust in such a marriage?

Agnes couldn't help but ask, "What exactly is going on between you and Mamie?"

Jared seemed to be waiting for her to ask.

After a while, he finally said, "There's nothing special between us. We're just good friends."

Chapter 65

Agnes was clueless about what “good friends” meant.

Jared said, “Agnes, if your actions today were out of jealousy, I’d be stoked, but this can’t happen again. If you have doubts, you should come straight to me, not risk sneaking around taking pictures. That’s utterly foolish. You have to consider not only yourself but also me I don’t fancy being labeled a widower in my youth.”

Agnes:”

Jared added. Today was purely a coincidence; I bumped into Mamie on my business trip in New York; we were just hanging out, having a meal. Did I clear that up for you?”

Agnes responded, “But you got me thrown into the police station over a picture.” The thought of this left Agnes feeling queasy, it was her first visit to such a place

Jared replied sternly. “I had you end up at the police station to make you remember today’s lesson. It’s not about a picture, but your reckless disregard for your own life”

Hearing Jared say this, Agnes felt slightly better, but she was still unsure if what he said was the truth.

Seeing Agnes wavering a bit, Jared said, “I’ve explained my situation; now let’s talk about you.”

“What about me?”

“When did you become a paparazzi, sneakily taking pictures of celebrities’ private lives?”

Agnes said, “I’m just an intern; they assigned me to the entertainment news.”

Agnes lied, not wanting Jared to know about her car accident. Two grand was nothing to Jared, but she didn’t want him butting in.

Jared didn’t question it: “If you want to intern, I could hook you up with a better newspaper or TV station.

“No need, I want to do this on my own.”

Jared didn't say anything else, he kept quiet for a while and said, "Let's go home."

Agnes said, "I need to swing by the newspaper office; I have an important class tomorrow morning: I'm going to go."

With that, Agnes left.

Jared stood there, stone-faced.

Agnes did head to the newspaper office, waiting until Siam came to work.

#

Seeing Agnes, Siam started to scold her: "What's with young people these days, biting off more than you can chew, recklessly taking risks? You're not cut out to be a reporter, you should be Spiderman. Agnes, let me tell you, the newspaper doesn't have money to pay for your insurance. If you get injured like this again, we won't take responsibility."

Siam was livid, while Agnes looked completely lost.

Seeing Agnes's expression, Siam got even angrier: "Agnes, are you even listening to me?"

Agnes mumbled, "I thought you'd scold me for the newspaper getting complaints, for not finishing my assignment, for getting the newspaper blacklisted from the World Internatinal Hotel, I... didn't think you were actually scolding me because you were worried about me."

Hearing this, Siam was on the verge of exploding. "Do you really think I would care about those things more than your life? Agnes, you really haven't learned your lesson."

Feeling a lump in her throat, Agnes realized Ben hadn't blamed her, and Slam was just worried about her safety. Agnes knew that the newspaper had suffered a great loss, even after receiving a lawyer's letter.

With her head down, Agnes said, "Siam, I was wrong."

Seeing Agnes admit her mistake sincerely, Siam's tone softened. "Be careful next time. You can go now."

Agnes didn't leave right away, hesitating. "Siam, I have a request. Can I get an advance on my salary for the next six months?"

"Agnes, you just made a huge mistake, and you have the nerve to ask for a salary?"

"Siam, please, I need it urgently. I'll work for free for the next year!"

For some reason, Agnes felt the atmosphere in the newspaper office was good, which had changed her previous views on paparazzi. That's why she got up the courage to make such "unreasonable demands".

Siam glared at Agnes for a while and finally softened. "How much do you need?"

Chapter 66

Agnes exited the newspaper office with an envelope containing 20,000 yuan in her hands. She dug out the business card the driver had given her and dialed the number on it.

"Hello, who's this?" A deep voice came from the other end of the phone.

The intense aura made Agnes nervous. She quickly said, "Is this Mr. Ivan? I'm the one who hit your car last time. I've got the compensation ready. What's the easiest way for me to get it to you?"

"Cash?"

Agnes paused and said, "Yes"

"I'm tied up at the moment. Come find me on the 19th floor of the Century Building later." And with that, Mr. Ivan hung up.

Agnes was a bit puzzled. Even though it was cash, he could have just given her his bank account number, and she could have transferred the money. Why go through all this hassle?

But considering she had hit such an expensive car, Agnes figured she should apologize in person.

She had no classes in the morning, so she hailed a cab straight to the Century Building. This landmark building was not far from the Tim Group, also a prominent feature in Willowbrook Town.

The building was the headquarters of Century Entertainment, shining like a golden castle. Half of the top stars from the entertainment industry were signed to the company, with Mamie being the most popular.

Agnes was surprised to find out that the seemingly businesslike man worked at this entertainment company. Without thinking too much, she headed straight to the 19th floor.

As the elevator doors opened, Agnes was stunned by the scene before her. Hundreds of young girls were gathered in the long hallway, creating quite an impressive sight.

To her surprise, she spotted Beatrice Pritchard among the crowd.

Seeing Agnes, Beatrice sarcastically said, “Agnes, I never thought I’d see you here at the auditions. But you sure do stand out in that getup. Didn’t you know today’s scene is a ball?”

Agnes was confused Auditions? She noticed all the girls were dressed in fancy gowns, while she was just wearing jeans and a white shirt.

A girl nearby asked, “Beatrice, isn’t this your... sister?”

Beatrice responded, “She’s not my sister, she’s a burden to my family.”

Laughter erupted from the crowd.

Agnes kept a poker face and said, “Beatrice, if my memory serves me right, you have your college entrance examination tomorrow. Does your father know you’re here?”

It was already June, and Beatrice was in her senior year of high school, with the college entrance examination just around the corner.

Beatrice replied, “To me, the college entrance examination is just a formality. I’m destined to be a star. Now that the The Magical Romance of Cinderella” crew is holding national auditions, getting picked would skyrocket my fame. Why would I let an examination block my path to stardom?”

Agnes didn't know what to say.

Beatrice added, "Agnes, don't waste your energy. You won't get picked looking like that. Don't embarrass yourself here."

"I'm not here to audition."

"Then what are you here for?"

"None of your business."

Beatrice said, "If you're not here to audition, then don't stand in the way. We're about to start shooting the casting documentary. If you don't want to be caught on camera, you better find somewhere to hide."

Beatrice pointed to a room behind Agnes and said, "That's an empty conference room. You can hide in there for a while."

Agnes was actually there to meet someone and didn't want to be crammed in a hallway with so many people. Without thinking twice, she turned and headed towards the conference room Beatrice had pointed out.

She could faintly hear Beatrice and a few people around her laughing maliciously.

Chapter 67

A girl next to Beatrice said, "Beatrice, you're such a troublemaker. That's the meeting room of the director and scriptwriter, isn't she just asking for trouble by barging in there?"

"Yeah, I heard the big boss and investors are there today. The director of this TV show is Zoe, and he's got a terrible temper. She will definitely be kicked out."

Beatrice replied, "Exactly, I want her to embarrass herself. She thinks she can audition for the lead role? Dream on, she's way too cocky"

Agnes walked straight into the meeting room. But after two steps, Agnes stopped. There was a row of people sitting in the room. What was going on? In front of this bunch of people was a big screen, playing auditions from another room. Hearing the noise at the door, everyone turned to look at Agnes. Agnes stood still for a moment and quickly apologized, “Sorry, I entered the wrong room.” She was about to turn around and leave “Hold on.”

Agnes stopped in her tracks, a middle-aged man had quickly walked up to her. He looked Agnes up and down, seeming pleasantly surprised, nodding while saying, “Tess, look, doesn’t she look like your character, Sylvia?”

Then a woman with thick glasses also walked over, looking at Agnes as if she had found a treasure: “She’s got the right temperament and good looks. Director Zoe, your eye for talent is really good, we haven’t had a satisfactory audition yet.”

Director Zoe slapped his thigh and said, “Let’s go with her, she’s our Cinderella”

Agnes was completely stunned, could anyone tell her what on earth they were talking about?

Director Zoe turned around and asked, “What’s your name? If there’s no problem, we can sign the contract and get the script this afternoon.”

Although Agnes didn’t quite understand what was happening, she knew these people must have misunderstood something.

Agnes explained, “I’m not here for the audition, you’ve got the wrong idea.”

“If you’re not here for the audition, then what are you here for?”

“I’m here to find someone.”

“Who are you looking for?”

“She’s here to find me.” A deep and magnetic male voice came from not far away.

Agnes looked over; it was a man in a suit with a remarkable presence.

The man walked up to Agnes and said, “Miss Agnes?”

Agnes nodded, not knowing how this man knew her name.

“Please follow me.” The man led Agnes out of the room.

Agnes followed the man to the balcony at the end of the corridor, attracting countless gazes along the way.

As she walked past Beatrice, everyone had an incredulous expression on their faces.

In the short distance of a few dozen meters, there were expressions of shock, envy, and jealousy

The girls looked at the man, their eyes filled with admiration and shyness—even some fear.

The balcony was very quiet; separated from the corridor by a glass door, it seemed completely isolated.

Agnes was the first to break the silence: “Are you Mr. Ivan?”

The man reached out his hand and said, “I’m Ivan; nice to meet you, Miss Agnes.”

Agnes reached out her hand to shake his, then asked, “How did you know my name?”

Agnes remembered that she didn’t tell him her name during the car accident last time.

The man replied, “You’re Preston Pritchard’s daughter; of course I would know.”

When her father was mentioned, Agnes hesitated for a moment.

The man straightforwardly said, “I’m the CEO of Century Entertainment; Preston was a predecessor I greatly admire.”

Hearing this, Agnes immediately understood.

Chapter 68

She finally got why the name on the business card seemed so familiar the first time she saw it.

Sure, Century Entertainment had been around for less time than her father's Starlight International Group, but in a few short years, it's churned out heaps of top celebrities. In terms of status, Century Entertainment has already outshone Starlight International Group.

Although the two companies seemed to coexist harmoniously in recent years, they were actually butting heads behind the scenes, vying for theaters and resources without mercy.

Agnes said, "My dad mentioned Mr. Ivan once and said you were a young go-getter."

The man cracked a smile and said, "The Magical Romance of Cinderella is the first major domestic fantasy blockbuster and also the first film investment from Starlight International Group and Century Entertainment after years of rivalry. The male lead is set, and we're currently holding nationwide auditions for the female lead. Director Zoe took a liking to you, Miss Agnes. Would you be interested in getting involved in the production?"

Agnes was puzzled. Starlight International Group and Century Entertainment were at odds, and now they're collaborating?

Agnes laughed awkwardly, saying. That was a misunderstanding; I accidentally walked in there; I have no acting experience."

"Sometimes, unexpected things can be a blessing. I trust Director Zoe's judgment, and you fit the image of the role perfectly."

Agnes shook her head and said, "I'm sorry, I'm not really into acting."

He chuckled and said, "If you're not up for it, I won't push. If you change your mind, you know where to find me."

Agnes nodded reluctantly. "Anyway, I came to give you this."

She took out an envelope from her bag and wrote, "I accidentally scratched your car; I'm truly sorry. Here's twenty grand, do you need to count it?"

He took the envelope and said, "No need; I trust you, Miss Agnes."

Feeling like she'd accomplished her mission for the day, Agnes was about to make her exit when she heard Beatrice's voice from a distance: "Sis?"

Agnes turned around to see Beatrice walking towards her, arm in arm, with a big smile on her face.

But Beatrice's eyes were on the man. "Mr. Ivan, remember me? I'm Beatrice; we met at the charity gala two weeks ago."

He replied flatly. Your mother is a big star, and you look just like her. Of course I remember."

Beatrice looked pleased, but he clearly wasn't interested in chatting. He turned to Agnes and said, "Miss Agnes, I've got stuff to deal with. I'll be leaving now Please consider what I said earlier."

Agnes nodded. "You go ahead."

After he left, Beatrice immediately pulled her hand away from Agnes and even wiped it on her dress in disgust

Fuming, she said to Agnes, "How do you know Ivan, Agnes? You sure know how to work, men."

Agnes was used to Beatrice's mood swings. "Beatrice, I don't owe you any explanations."

"What did you give him? What did he want you to consider? What's going on between you two? Agnes, are you trying to break into showbiz? Don't get your hopes up."

Agnes didn't want to deal with her anymore and walked away.

Bitterly, Beatrice stomped her foot and said, "Agnes, who the hell are you? How can you just ignore me like that?"

Chapter 69

Agnes bolted out of the Century Building and headed back to school. She holed up in the library till late, since she was free in the afternoon.

Jared shot her a text: "When are you coming home?"

Agnes stared at her phone for a moment but didn't respond.

Soon, Jared called, his voice deep and resonant from the other end: "Got class tonight?"

Agnes answered, "I've got a journalism project on my plate, so I'm a bit swamped."

"When will you be done?"

"I'm not sure, you should hit the sack; don't wait up for me."

After hanging up, Agnes felt a pang of regret. Truth be told, Jared was all she could think about the whole day. It's been a while since they last saw each other, and Agnes missed him. But when she recalled Jared's cozy moment with Mamie yesterday, she had to admit she was a bit green-eyed.

Jared tried to explain, but Agnes was not satisfied with his explanation, and she realized she barely knew Jared. Their marriage was initially a farce, but Agnes found herself taking it seriously.

Agnes stayed overnight in the library. When she was too tired, she caught some Z's on the couch in the lounge.

For days on end, she would sneak home during the day to change and shower, then crash at the library at night, all to avoid bumping into Jared.

Agnes admitted she was a bit of a chicken, but she really didn't know how to face Jared. On the fourth day, Jared found out.

That day at noon, Agnes came home as usual, and finding the coast clear, she dashed for the shower.

Sleeping in the library for days on end, Agnes felt groggy and scatterbrained. After showering, she realized she had forgotten to bring a change of clothes. This wasn't the first time, but the house was empty and the bedroom curtains were drawn tight. She shrugged it off and walked out naked, planning to fetch her pajamas from the closet.

But she was dumbstruck the moment she stepped out of the bathroom!

Jared was sitting on the couch, his gaze fixed on the bathroom. He was also stunned when he saw Agnes walk out naked.

Then Agnes screamed, quickly turned around, and darted back into the bathroom, slamming the glass door shut.

Then, silence.

Agnes hugged herself, her heart pounding like it was about to leap out of her chest.

She could see herself in the bathroom mirror, her body as red as a boiled shrimp, her cheeks flushed like they were bleeding.

After a while, Agnes heard no sound from outside. Did Jared leave the room?

She peeked out from behind the frosted glass door, but what she saw was a hand holding her pajamas and underwear.

Looking up. Jared was leaning against the wall next to the door, one hand casually stuffed in his pocket, the other holding her clothes, as if waiting for her to open the door.

Agnes exclaimed in surprise, then shut the door again. What kind of person is he? Is he waiting here to make fun of her?

But this time, Jared just swung the door open: “Agnes, there’s a limit to being shy! We’re married; it’s normal to see each other naked once in a while, and we’ve even been in the bathroom before.”

“Ah! Jared, shut up!” Agnes knew what Jared was about to say.

Chapter 70

Sure, it happened before, but that was when she was out of her mind. The situation now was totally different. With her back to Jared, Agnes realized there was nothing in the bathroom she could cover herself with

She was like a startled cat, growling angrily. “Jared, out!”

Jared found her anger utterly adorable.

Agnes had naturally fair skin, and at that moment, she looked like a ripe peach. Jared was even beginning to miss the feel of her skin.

Jared's gaze deepened. He was worried he wouldn't be able to control himself if this went on, but it wasn't the time.

Jared backed out, and Agnes quickly said, "Put the clothes here."

Jared put down the clothes with a slight smile.

After Agnes had dressed, she stayed inside for a while before coming out.

Jared was on the balcony, making a call. He saw Agnes glaring at him when he came in after hanging up.

Before Jared could open his mouth, Agnes blurted out, "Pervert!"

Jared laughed. He had lived for over twenty years, yet this was the first time he had been called a pervert.

Jared said, "If someone comes out of the bathroom naked, then who's the real pervert?"

Agnes said, "Can't you knock first when you come in? That's basic manners."

"Agnes, do I need to knock in my own bedroom? I had no idea you'd be...so bold!"

Agnes didn't know how to react to Jared's smile.

Jared laughed and said, "Let's not dwell on this. We're a couple, it's normal. If you still feel upset, next time after a shower, I can walk out naked for you."

Agnes was speechless and started to pack up, ready to leave.

But Jared grabbed her arm and said, "Agnes, we need to talk."

Agnes said annoyedly. "What's there to talk about?"

"What have you been up to these days?"

Agnes pretended to be clueless. "What do you mean?"

Jared got serious: "Agnes, you've been avoiding me and not coming home. What's going on?"

Agnes didn't know what was happening either, but seeing Jared made her uncomfortable.

Agnes said, “I’ve just been a bit busy.”

“Agnes, look into my eyes and tell me again; tell me you’re not lying.”

Agnes couldn’t look into Jared’s eyes. She was somewhat afraid of him.

Jared said, “I’ve checked your schedule. You haven’t had many classes recently, and you’re free this afternoon. Rest for a bit, I’ll take you to meet someone tonight”

“Who?”

“Mamie.” Jared began, “I know you’re still upset about last time. If I didn’t explain it properly, let her tell you.”

Jared was good at understanding people. Was he really going to introduce her to Mamie? Did this mean she misunderstood?

Agnes gently said, “But Mamie must be very busy. She’s a top star, it’s usually hard for people to meet her.”

Jared pinched Agnes’s face gently and said, “I have a wife who gets jealous easily. If I don’t explain things clearly, I can bear with it, but it might not be

able to”

The sudden closeness made the atmosphere ambiguous.

Agnes was a bit lost. Who are you talking about?”

Jared teased, “it

Agnes’s face turned red again. “Jared! You, you, you again...”

Chapter 70

Sure, it happened before, but that was when she was out of her mind. The situation now was totally different. With her back to Jared, Agnes realized there was nothing in the bathroom she could cover herself with

She was like a startled cat, growling angrily. “Jared, out!”

Jared found her anger utterly adorable.

Agnes had naturally fair skin, and at that moment, she looked like a ripe peach. Jared was even beginning to miss the feel of her skin.

Jared’s gaze deepened. He was worried he wouldn’t be able to control himself if this went on, but it wasn’t the time.

Jared backed out, and Agnes quickly said, “Put the clothes here.”

Jared put down the clothes with a slight smile.

After Agnes had dressed, she stayed inside for a while before coming out.

Jared was on the balcony, making a call. He saw Agnes glaring at him when he came in after hanging up.

Before Jared could open his mouth, Agnes blurted out, “Pervert!”

Jared laughed. He had lived for over twenty years, yet this was the first time he had been called a pervert.

Jared said, “If someone comes out of the bathroom naked, then who’s the real pervert?”

Agnes said, “Can’t you knock first when you come in? That’s basic manners.”

“Agnes, do I need to knock in my own bedroom? I had no idea you’d be...so bold!”

Agnes didn’t know how to react to Jared’s smile.

Jared laughed and said, “Let’s not dwell on this. We’re a couple, it’s normal. If you still feel upset, next time after a shower, I can walk out naked for you.”

Agnes was speechless and started to pack up, ready to leave.

But Jared grabbed her arm and said, “Agnes, we need to talk.”

Agnes said annoyed. “What’s there to talk about?”

“What have you been up to these days?”

Agnes pretended to be clueless. “What do you mean?”

Jared got serious: “Agnes, you’ve been avoiding me and not coming home. What’s going on?”

Agnes didn’t know what was happening either, but seeing Jared made her uncomfortable.

Agnes said, “I’ve just been a bit busy.”

“Agnes, look into my eyes and tell me again; tell me you’re not lying.”

Agnes couldn’t look into Jared’s eyes. She was somewhat afraid of him.

Jared said, “I’ve checked your schedule. You haven’t had many classes recently, and you’re free this afternoon. Rest for a bit, I’ll take you to meet someone tonight”

“Who?”

“Mamie.” Jared began, “I know you’re still upset about last time. If I didn’t explain it properly, let her tell you.”

Jared was good at understanding people. Was he really going to introduce her to Mamie? Did this mean she misunderstood?

Agnes gently said, “But Mamie must be very busy. She’s a top star, it’s usually hard for people to meet her.”

Jared pinched Agnes’s face gently and said, “I have a wife who gets jealous easily. If I don’t explain things clearly, I can bear with it, but it might not be

able to”

The sudden closeness made the atmosphere ambiguous.

Agnes was a bit lost. Who are you talking about?”

Jared teased, “it

Agnes’s face turned red again. “Jared! You, you, you again...”