

Heartstrings On Fire Chapter 71 - 80

Chapter 71

Agnes had dozed off all afternoon, and so had Jared.

Agnes was staring at the ceiling blankly. To others, Jared was seen as aloof and noble. There were even rumors that he wasn't into women, and was a

man of few desires!

Well, that didn't seem to be the case!

Agnes was starting to feel better. But maybe she was overthinking.

Jared chose a private French restaurant, a place often frequented by celebrities.

Agnes was actually quite nervous. Firstly, this was the first time Jared was introducing her to his friends. Secondly, Marie was no ordinary person. She was a well-known actress with a strong aura.

Agnes was inwardly happy. It felt like she was getting one step closer to Jared's life. They were secretly married, and Agnes was always afraid of others finding out. She wasn't sure how the marriage would end; she never really gave it much thought.

But now, her thoughts seemed to be gradually changing.

When Agnes and Jared arrived at the restaurant, Mamie hadn't arrived yet. After waiting for a while, he received a call. It was from Mamie's agent.

Agnes vaguely heard the words "car accident" and "rear-end collision".

After hanging up the phone, Jared's expression turned serious. He told Agnes, "Mamie had a car accident on the way here. She's in the hospital now, I'm going to check on her."

Agnes immediately said, "I'll go with you"

Jared replied, "It's not that serious. You should stay here. Have something to eat, I'll be back soon to pick you up, and it won't take long."

Agnes thought about it. If she appeared with Jared in a public place like the hospital, it could draw a lot of attention. So, she nodded and said, “Okay, I’ll wait for you here.”

After Jared left, Agnes was sitting all alone. All sorts of dishes were served; it was a table full of delicious food. She just sat alone. Even the waiter gazed at her strangely. Agnes didn’t touch her fork and packed a few main dishes to take away. In the end, she couldn’t help but worry and took a taxi to the hospital.

She had good ears. When Jared was on the phone earlier, she heard the hospital’s name and the ward’s room number. She arrived at the hospital quickly and went to the ward.

It was a VIP ward, very quiet with few people. The whole floor didn’t have any other people.

Agnes arrived at the door of the ward, very hesitant. Just as she was about to knock on the door, it opened, and a nurse came out. She glanced at the takeout box in her hand and said, “You must be Ms. Mamie’s assistant. Go in, remember, don’t give her greasy food for now.”

With that, the nurse left.

The door to the room was still open. The room was huge, like a presidential suite..

Agnes slowly walked in. From the bedroom came Jared’s voice, “Mamie, don’t use this tactic. I think I made some things very clear that day.”

Mamie’s voice also came from inside, “How am I supposed to believe what you said. You married a twenty–year–old girl? Jared, are you trying to get back

at me?”

“I’m not trying to get back at you, I really am married.”

“Jared, going to Hollywood has been my dream since I was a kid. I said I could win an Oscar for Best Actress in two years.”

“That’s your decision, it has nothing to do with me.”

“What about your decision? Your ego was hurt just because I didn’t accept your proposal, and you went and married a young girl? If this isn’t revenge,

then what is it?"

Chapter 72

Agnes was completely flabbergasted. Her mind went blank for a moment, then it hit her.

She never quite understood why a guy like Jared would marry her. They didn't know each other, and it was just a drunken encounter that brought them together.

That morning, Agnes woke up in utter panic. Jared, however, casually asked, "Are you of age?"

She nodded.

"We'll meet in front of city hall this afternoon," said Jared.

And just like that, Agnes and Jared became husband and wife.

At that time, Agnes was utterly disappointed in love because of Elton and Jenny. She had also lost her virginity. She didn't care who she married and didn't realize then that the man she married was a big shot. But for Jared, Agnes couldn't understand why he chose to marry her instead of dealing with a one-night stand in another way.

Now Agnes understood that Jared shared the same feelings. They both were disheartened about their own relationships and decided to be careless about marriage.

While others were talking, Agnes couldn't hear a word. She turned around and left the hospital like a ghost.

Agnes was sad, as she knew that even if Jared married her for such a reason, it was not his fault. She had done the same, so she had no reason to blame him. What saddened Agnes more was that her current thoughts were completely different from before.

She she seemed to have fallen for Jared...

The night was deep. Agnes walked ahead absentmindedly. Suddenly, a sharp horn sounded. When she turned her head, all she saw were two blinding lights, that made her struggle to open her eyes

Before Agnes could react, she felt her arm being pulled by a force. She fell into a pair of arms. Then there was a roar of car movement in her ears, followed by the curses of the driver speeding by.

“Are you okay?” The man’s deep voice seemed to drift over her head.

Agnes looked up. It was Ivan.

After a moment, Agnes realized that Ivan was holding her wrist tightly with one hand and her waist with the other. They were pressed tightly together. Agnes could even hear his heartbeat.

Agnes quickly broke free and took a step back, “I’m fine.”

Ivan said, “Ms. Pritchard, what were you thinking? That was dangerous.”

Agnes looked around and realized she had wandered onto the road. She was absent-minded and jaywalking. If Ivan hadn’t shown up in time, she would have been in trouble.

Agnes instantly felt a sense of dread, “Thank you for saving me.”

Ivan smiled, “No problem. Treat me to a meal; I’m starving.”

Agnes was taken aback, then agreed.

They went to a nearby Mexican restaurant. When they sat down, Agnes was still a little shaken, “Thanks for earlier, Mr. Bartley. What were you doing.

there?”

Ivan explained, “I just came out of the hospital and ran into you. You seemed a bit flustered, and even bumped into two people within a short distance. I was a bit worried and followed you for a bit. So, my presence was not a coincidence.”

She had bumped into two people while walking? She had no idea.

Chapter 73

Ivan went on, “But I’m curious, what has got you all muddled?”

Agnes replied, “Just some stuff that’s got me scratching my head.”

Not wanting to dwell on it, Agnes changed the subject, “Why are you at the hospital?”
Ivan answered, “My sister is in the hospital because of a car accident. I came to visit her

2 2 2 5

Upon hearing this, something clicked in Agnes’ mind.

Hesitantly, Agnes asked, “Your sister isn’t Mamie, is it?”

Ivan glanced at Agnes, “You know her?”

It all made sense now. The Bartley family was complicated. One of the Four Families of Willowbrook, Ivan was the CEO of Century Entertainment, and Mamie was their star, but she had never put two and two together.

Agnes, with mixed feelings, said, “Mamie is a national icon, who wouldn’t know her?”

Ivan smiled, “If you would step into the entertainment industry, you’d quickly become the next big thing, Director Zoe keeps singing your praises, trying to convince me every day to let you play the lead in his new drama.”

Agnes declined politely, I’m still in school, it’s not convenient.”

“It wouldn’t be a hassle, actually. The drama is set on school life, and filming would be done on your campus at Lakeside College. Besides, you’re about to go on summer break.”

Agnes still turned him down.

After dinner, Agnes returned to Maplewood Manor. Half an hour later, Jared called to say he would be late and asked the driver to pick her up from the restaurant.

Agnes said, “No need, I’m already home.”

After hanging up, Agnes sat alone on the couch.

Her eyes were fixated on the clock on the wall. When would Jared be back? If Jared was back before midnight, she would clear things up with him. If he didn't come back, she would choose to leave.

Agnes was a Libra, often caught in dilemmas. But at times like this, she would let time and fate make the decision for her.

Time was ticking away. Agnes' heart was sinking, slowly, steadily, into the endless abyss. When the second hand on the clock crossed midnight, Agnes suddenly calmed down. As if a sword hanging over her head, had finally fallen.

Without hesitation, she picked up her phone and dialed Ivan's number.

Ivan on the other end of the line seemed slightly surprised, "Ms. Pritchard?"

I wanted to ask, if I agree to do your TV drama, will you arrange my accommodation?"

"Of course, the best dorm at Lakeside College."

"Okay, I agree."

After hanging up, Agnes started packing. She didn't want to live with Jared and her old dorm room had been taken. She didn't want to go home either. she'd always stay at school or go to a summer camp during the holidays.

After packing, Agnes lay down on the bed for a while, but her sleep was restless.

Jared didn't come back all night.

The next day, Agnes left with her luggage.

Agnes first dropped her luggage off at Kerri's dorm, then went to Century Entertainment.

After she walked into the CEO's office, Ivan handed Agnes a document saying, "This is the contract. Take a look. If you have any questions, feel free to

ask,"

Agnes looked through the document. Since her father was a chairman of an entertainment company, she had known details about these types of agreements since he was a child.

Agnes said, “I don’t want to be a part of Century Entertainment. Can we simplify it? I do one movie, and you pay me what I’m due. When the movie’s done, the contract ends. Just like that”

Chapter 74

Ivan pondered for a moment, then tucked the contract away. I’m cool with this, but I won’t be able to assign you a dedicated agent. I’ll fill in for now, handling your shoot for the next three months. During this time, I’ll be arranging your gigs and if you run into any hitches, you gotta let me know ASAP

Agnes responded, “Deal”

After signing the contract again, Ivan said, “Tonight we’re have a meal with the director and the scriptwriter. We need to get to know each other a bit before we start work in three days.*

Agnes nodded, “But can you help me find a place to stay. I’m homeless right now”

Ivan replied, “According to our deal with Lakeside College, it’s not time to sort your dorm yet. I’ll find you a temporary spot, you can crash there for a bit.”

Agnes agreed. She didn’t have spare money for living expenses and had to rely on others. She figured she’d pay him back for the accommodation once she started making some money from acting.

Agnes spent the entire day reading the script in Ivan’s office

At noon, she grabbed a meal at the Century Building cafeteria. In the afternoon, Jared rang her up, but Agnes didn’t pick up. In the evening, Agnes rode with Ivan to The Simon’s. The room was spacious and comfy

The director, scriptwriter, producer, and other key members started showing up. When director Zoe saw Agnes, it was as if he’d found a rare gem.

During dinner, Agnes curiously asked Zoe, “Out of all the girls in town, why did you pick me?”

A slightly tipsy Zoe laughed and replied, “Because the character Sylvia in the script is a bit of an airhead. The moment you barged into the meeting room. looking confused, I thought, “She’s it. She’s Sylvia. That dorky vibe you gave off was perfect”

Agnes was speechless. She got the part because she seemed a bit clueless, which was far from what she’d imagined.

Agnes chatted with scriptwriter Tess for quite a while. When Agnes read the script in the afternoon, the plot totally captivated her.

The Magical Romance of Cinderella‘ told the story of a girl named Sylvia who, after a near-death experience, gained the ability to time travel. She unexpectedly gets tangled up with a nobleman named Samie. The plot was unique and fascinating

Agnes read the entire script in one go and totally loved it.

The supporting actress in the play, the rich miss Angelina, was played by the rising star Ava, who was also present.

Agnes was familiar with the name Ava because she was also a student at Lakeside College’s performing arts department. She had been scouted in her freshman year and had already appeared in several TV dramas. While she wasn’t a superstar yet, she’d already gathered a considerable fan base and was known as the “Queen of the Performing Arts Department” on campus.

They felt an immediate sense of camaraderie, probably because they went to the same school.

After dinner, the head honchos started discussing work matters, and Agnes chatted with Ava.

Ava said, “I heard the male lead’s been decided but hasn’t been announced yet. I thought I’d meet him today. Any idea who it might be?”

Agnes thought for a bit, then said, “The most popular young actors at Century Entertainment are probably Orlando and Robin. Orlando’s busy filming at historical drama, so he might not have the time. Robin just wrapped up his latest show, so I think it’s likely him.”

Agnes had a good understanding of the entertainment industry, because she'd previously worked on a feature about "the impact of celebrity influence on the entertainment industry".

Ava nodded, "I thought so too. Robin's good-looking, but he's too much of a typical macho guy, not my type."

Agnes joked, "What's your type?"

Chapter 75

Ava blushed a bit and said, "I really fancy the male celeb, Justin. I really dig him."

Agnes shook her head, "Justin is prettier than a woman. Isn't it stressful to like a guy who's prettier than yourself?"

And just like that, they started gossiping about the entertainment industry. Gossip was like a second soul to women.

It ended at ten.

Ivan was driving with Agnes in the passenger seat. Agnes was clueless about where Ivan intended for her to stay, probably some hotel.

Her phone rang again. The third call of the night. Agnes stared at the blinking screen, her mind in turmoil, finally deciding to switch her phone off.

When she looked up, Ivan seemed to have glanced at her, "Boyfriend?"

Agnes hesitated, "No."

Ivan didn't push further, and the car quickly came to a stop. That's when Agnes realized, this wasn't a hotel, but a mansion.

Surprised, Agnes asked, "Where is this?"

Ivan replied, "My place."

Agnes was taken aback, "Why are you bringing me to your place?"

Seeing Agnes frown suspiciously, Ivan laughed, “You’re a girl, it’s not safe to stay in a hotel. Stay here for the time being.”

Agnes hesitated, “That doesn’t seem right.”

Ivan smiled, “Don’t worry, I’m a decent guy.”

Agnes wasn’t scared of him, just uncomfortable. But it was already late, and the mansion was in the suburbs, going back would be a hussie: In the end, she got out of the car.

The mansion was huge and had great privacy, surrounded by lush tall trees.

There was an open-air swimming pool in the garden. The mansion was brightly lit, like a palace.

As she walked in, Agnes found it unbelievably huge. But besides the butler, there seemed to be no one else, which felt a bit lonely.

The butler showed Agnes to a guest room. After a while, there was a knock on the door.

Agnes opened the door to find Ivan standing there with a few sets of clothes.

Ivan said, “These are my sister’s clothes, brand new. You are about the same size as her. They should fit”

Agnes took the clothes, “Thanks.”

Ivan added, “If you need anything, you can find the butler or me. My room is next to yours.”

Agnes nodded.

Just then, the butler came over and said, “Sir, there is a guest.”

Agnes was puzzled. It was so late and there were still guests. But she didn’t think much of it.

After Ivan left, Agnes stared at the clothes in her hand. They were the pop queen’s. It was amazing. Mamie was like someone from other world.

Agnes had to admit, Jared and Mamie were a perfect match, and they seemed to belong to the same world.

Agnes shook her head, deciding not to think about it anymore. She turned and went to take a shower.

Meanwhile, in the study.

Ivan opened a bottle of red wine, poured it into a glass, and handed it to the man sitting on the sofa with a gloomy face, “Jared, you’re always busy and only show up a few times a year, and yet you are here to have a drink with me late at night. What’s bothering you so much?”

The man took the glass from Ivan, took a small sip, then asked, “Can you tell me what a twenty-year-old girl usually thinks about? Why do they suddenly stop talking to people?”

Chapter 76

Ivan happened to be holding a glass of wine to his lips. Thank God he hadn’t taken a sip, or he might have choked

“Can’t believe you’re asking such a childish question, Jared,” Ivan said. “When did you start dating? How come I didn’t know about it? Is your girlfriend some 20-year-old chick?”

Jared responded calmly, “I’m actually married.”

Ivan’s hand, which had been gently swaying his glass, froze. His tone turned serious, “Really?”

Jared didn’t answer, and just downed the rest of his wine.

“I don’t mind you dating,” Ivan began “Gaining experience in love is just like work, it’s not a bad thing. But marriage isn’t a walk in the park. I thought. Mamie would be your bride.”

Jared said, “Mamie and I grew up together, I thought things would naturally fall into place. I proposed to her, but she said no. Then some unexpected things happened, and this girl appeared. My life suddenly became interesting. From the moment we got our marriage certificate, I decided to take it seriously.”

Ivan didn't show any obvious reaction, his fingers lightly rubbing the rim of his glass, seemingly lost in thought.

“Your situation with Mamie, I don't want to interfere,” Ivan began. “You're both adults, you have your own minds. But my sister is stubborn, I've spoiled her since she was young. The more she can't have something, the more she wants it. You better sort this out with her sooner rather than later.”

I know,” Jared replied.

Ivan raised his glass with a small smirk, “Anyway, congratulations on your marriage.”

A hint of helplessness crossed Jared's face as he thought of someone. Nevertheless, he leaned over and clinked glasses with Ivan, “Thanks”

“So, is your new bride mad at you?” Ivan asked, changing the subject. “What kind of girl is she that she's got you so smitten?”

Jared let out a rare sigh, “She's not just mad at me. She's run away. I have no idea where she is.”

Ivan laughed, “Not many women would dare to make you suffer. Now I'm curious to meet your wife, she must be quite a character.”

Jared got up with a sigh and walked towards the balcony.

After having a bath, Agnes couldn't sleep. Jared's face was all she could think of. Was he back at Maplewood Manor? Was he still with Mamie?

The more she thought about it, the more annoyed she became. She felt suffocated in the large room, so she decided to go out onto the balcony for some fresh air.

The room had wall of floor-to-ceiling windows. Agnes pulled back the thick curtains and stepped onto the terrace.

The terrace had a Central European style, similar to what Agnes had seen in the movie “Romeo and Juliet”.

The view outside was beautiful. A large lake looked like a huge mirror in the moonlight. Trees were trimmed into a maze, and the flower field was filled with English roses. It looked like Alice had entered a dreamy wonderland.

Agnes couldn't help but marvel. What a beautiful place Willowbrook Town was.

The night breeze in June wasn't that hot, and it felt like a gentle hand caressing her cheek.

Agnes closed her eyes, feeling much more relaxed.

She was about to go back to sleep when she noticed a silhouette on the neighboring terrace.

Chapter 77

Every room here had a balcony, and the distance between each wasn't that far at all.

Agnes had no clue who her neighbors were, she just saw bright lights in their room, and everything on their balcony was clear as day.

When Agnes saw the face of the person, she was gobsmacked. For a split second, she thought she was hallucinating, rubbing her eyes in disbelief. When she opened her eyes again, he was still there, only with a chillier aura.

No hallucination! It was Jared she was staring at!

Agnes couldn't help but feel that the world worked in mysterious ways. Why would Jared just pop up here? He was dressed in a white shirt and black trousers, looking dashing, with a wine glass in one hand and the other in his pocket. The combination of the light and the moonlight made him look like a dreamboat straight out of a comic book, only the growing chill in the air was impossible to ignore. The balcony felt like a walk-in freezer.

Agnes first reaction was to freeze. They stared at each other across the few meters for what felt like forever.

Ivan walked up behind Jared and caught sight of this scene. Jared's demeanor was frosty, and that look in his eyes could freeze hell over. And Agnes opposite him, her face was a mask of panic, her eyes brimming with undeniable tension. It was like walking in on a huge scandal.

Ivan furrowed his brows and asked, "Do you guys know each other?"

Jared had already turned and walked back to his room.

Agnes didn't breathe a sigh of relief; her mind felt like it was in a fog, blank. Sure enough, within a minute, there was a knock at Agnes' door.

The inevitable had happened.

Agnes quickly composed herself, walked over, and opened the door. Jared and Ivan were both standing there.

Jared looked none too pleased. He said in a frosty tone, "Agnes, you owe me an explanation as to why you're here."

Agnes felt that a single sentence wouldn't suffice.

Ivan sensed something was amiss and said, "She's the lead in my new show. She needed a place to stay temporarily, so she's here for now."

Ivan then turned to Agnes and asked, "And what's the deal between you two?"

In truth, Ivan had already made his guess. He and Jared had been friends for twenty years, but he had never seen Jared looking this icy.

Jared's voice dropped lower. The lead in a new show. Why didn't you tell me you were acting?"

Agnes said, "Why should I tell you everything I'm doing? Have you never kept secrets from me?"

Jared gave Agnes a once-over and noticed she was in her pajamas. This made him even more irate.

Jared said coldly, "Come home with me."

Agnes felt that whatever had happened between her and Jared was their business. She didn't want it to turn into a spectacle. So, she kept quiet, implying her agreement.

As she was leaving, Agnes said to Ivan, "I appreciate your help today. I'll find time to explain everything to you."

Jared was standing nearby and said coldly. "You should think about how to explain to me first."

Agnes ignored him and walked away.

Jared gave Ivan a cold look, "And you, we'll settle this later."

Ivan spread his hands innocently and said casually, "Don't blame me. I had no idea she was your runaway wife."

Jared snorted coldly and walked away.

The smile on Ivan's face slowly faded.

Chapter 78

Throughout the whole ride, Agnes and Jared remained silent. Agnes kept sneaking glances at Jared's face through the rearview mirror. His gloomy expression was suffocating.

Agnes initially felt a tad guilty. After all, she and Jared were married, and she was caught staying overnight at a stranger's house. But when she thought about Jared not coming home that night, Agnes figured her actions weren't that outrageous in comparison.

The car rolled into Maplewood Manor, finally parking in front of the villa. The atmosphere inside the car grew even tenser, Agnes felt as if the air had

frozen solid

Jared finally broke the silence "Tell me, what the hell happened?"

Agnes played dumb. "What do you mean?"

Jared turned to look at Agnes. Strangely, she felt exposed under his gaze.

Jared snapped, “You ran off, didn’t tell me, and stayed at a stranger’s place. Do you think you can manage a guy like Ivan? How well do you know him to have the guts to go home with him?”

Agnes shot back, “I don’t know you that well either, yet I married you. She would never have dared to talk to Jared like this before.

This clearly infuriated Jared “Is our marriage really that insignificant to you?”

Agnes retorted, “Aren’t you doing the same thing? Devaluing our marriage.”

Jared stared at Agnes for a long time. “Agnes, is this really how you want to talk to me?”

Agnes suddenly felt upset. She was torn inside, wondering whether to expose the truth between them, whether to break the illusion. But Agnes didn’t have the guts. She feared that once the truth came out, everything would go back to square one.

Agnes wasn’t ready. For now, she just wanted to cool things down.

Agnes lowered her head and said, “Jared, let’s take a break.”

“Why? Just because I didn’t come home to pick you up that night, you’re gonna be this stubborn?”

Agnes suddenly felt hurt. See, Jared was smart, and he could sense her mood. But Jared didn’t know that she went to the hospital that day and heard his conversation with Mamie. Or maybe he did know but pretended not to. Once the truth came out, a lot of things would change

Agnes admitted she had become a coward in love. When Elton betrayed Jenny, Agnes didn’t hesitate to cut off a decade-long relationship.

Although it was painful, things were different now, she didn’t have the courage to confront the truth. Because then, she would be a complete fool, again.

What was she to Jared? Just a band-aid on his broken heart.

Agnes finally cooled down. I’ve agreed to act in a TV show during the summer break and will be staying in the cast dormitory”

“I don’t agree with that.”

“I’ve already signed the contract.”

“I’ll pay the penalty.”

Agnes turned to Jared. “Jared, this is my choice, my life. You have no right to interfere.”

I’m your husband. If I don’t have the right, then who does?”

“It’s just a marriage contract. If you insist on stopping me, then let’s get a divorce.”

After she said that, everything suddenly became quiet.

The silence was terrifying.

Chapter 79

Agnes thought dropping the divorce bomb would be tough, but the words slipped out easier than she expected. Those two words, like a thorn in her heart, stung her when she least expected it.

Jared’s face turned stormy, and the temperature in the car seemed to drop below zero. Agnes could hear her own heartbeat but kept her poker face on. After a long silence, Jared scoffed coldly, “Agnes, you really go with the flow, huh? Do you see marriage as a game? Even if you do, I am not a toy you can play with”

With that, he got out of the car and left, leaving Agnes alone. She wondered who was playing with whose feelings.

Eventually, Agnes got out of the car and saw Jared smoking on the balcony.

They had been living under the same roof for a while now, but Agnes had never seen Jared smoke before. His face was hidden in the smoke, his expression unreadable, and his chilly aura made him look unapproachable.

Agnes chose the guest room, avoiding Jared who seemed colder and more intimidating than usual. She didn’t want to provoke him.

Sleep eluded Agnes. She lay there, staring at the ceiling. Time ticked by each second feeling like torture.

She heard a faint noise at the door. Reflexively, Agnes closed her eyes and feigned sleep. She heard soft footsteps, slow and steady. She didn't have to guess who it was. The footsteps grew closer then faded away.

Although her eyes were closed, she could feel someone's gaze on her. After what felt like an eternity, she felt a cold touch on her lips. Startled, she opened her eyes to find Jared leaning over her. He was kissing her!

At that moment, Jared's eyes were closed, and he didn't notice Agnes' stiffness. She quickly closed her eyes again, pretending to be asleep.

The kiss deepened, filled with unrestrained anger. Jared's lips were cold, tasting faintly of tobacco. At first, it was just a soft brush of lips, but it was growing more forceful.

Agnes didn't dare move. Waking up now would be awkward. Plus, she could feel Jared's anger. Was he using her as an outlet?

Annoyed, Agnes couldn't push him away. So, she let out a soft moan, turned over, and continued to play possum.

After a while, she heard Jared let out a heavy sigh. Then the fading footsteps and a soft click of the door.

Finally, Agnes opened her eyes. Her heart was pounding as if it was about to leap out of her chest. Her lips were numb and tasted of Jared.

Biting the corner of the blanket, Agnes' face turned beet red in the dark. Even though she knew Jared's kiss was out of anger, she was embarrassed to find that she liked his taste. That dizzying, roller-coaster feeling made her feel weak.

Don't fall for him!

She pinched herself hard. Wake up! Don't be a fool in love again!

Chapter 80

The next morning, Agnes deliberately got up late. She didn't leave her room until nine o'clock.

After watching Jared for a while, she noticed that he was a workaholic. Every day, like clockwork, he'd hit the road at half past seven and didn't seem to have a day off.

She assumed Jared had already left. As she was walking through the living room, she heard a deep voice asking. "Where're you off to?"

Startled, she turned around and saw Jared sitting on the couch. He was wearing gold-rimmed glasses, a white shirt and black dress pants, with a laptop on his lap. He looked like he was hard at work.

Agnes had interned at the Tim Group before and was often summoned to the CEO's office. So, she had seen Jared at work. She had to admit, there was something about a man who was focused on his work, especially if that man was Jared.

After a moment, Agnes responded, "I'm off to school. Got my last major exam today" She did have an exam, but not until the afternoon.

"I'll drive you," Jared said, standing up and shutting his laptop.

"No need," Agnes hurriedly declined, "I can bike there."

"I'm headed to the office anyway."

Sharing a ride with Jared was pretty awkward for Agnes. When the car stopped, she tried to get out, but found that Jared had locked the doors.

What was he playing at?

Agnes looked at him. Jared, not looking at Agnes, asked, "Are you sure you want to be in this TV show?"

"Yes," Agnes said firmly

Her real goal was to avoid living under the same roof as Jared. She was fully aware that she was slowly falling for Jared. She needed to think about this rationally before it got too deep. As for what the future held, she hadn't figured that out yet..

Agnes thought Jared would continue to object. Instead, he was silent for a moment before saying. "If you're so set on this, then go ahead. But no more talk of divorce"

After Agnes left, Jared drove to the Century Building.

In the CEO's office of Century Entertainment-

Jared was sitting on the couch, looking at a script with a serious expression.

Ivan, leaning against his desk, chuckled, "Jared, you've been staring at that script for two hours. What's the problem?"

Jared closed the script and asked, "12 hug scenes, 4 kissing scenes, and a bed scene. Isn't that a bit much?"

Ivan laughed. "So you spent two hours reading a script, just to look at those?"

Jared didn't respond, and just stared at Ivan silently.

Ivan said seriously. "The Magical Romance of Cinderella is our country's first large-scale fantasy film. Agnes, as the female lead, has a total of 478 scenes, and only a handful of them are intimate scenes. It's really very few"

Jared said, "For those scenes, use a body double."

Ivan replied. "That might not be a good idea. First, this show will be directed by Zoe, who's known for being a bit obsessive. He doesn't allow body doubles for action movies, let alone a teen idol drama like this. Secondly, Agnes was chosen through auditions; she's a newbie and will definitely attract attention. If she uses a body double for even a few intimate scenes, it might c

come off as her being a diva."