

Heartstrings On Fire Chapter 231 - 260

Chapter 231

Seeing Jared, Beatrice immediately beamed, sweetly calling out his name.

Jared frowned, "What's up?"

Beatrice was holding a pile of new clothes, "I brought you some clothes. You've never stayed at my place before I noticed you didn't bring any change of clothes today These are all new, left by Elton, but never worn. You can wear them today"

Jared's frown deepened

Beatrice felt a thrill of joy

She had sensed tension when they went upstairs earlier.

Perhaps the photo of Agnes and Elton she had produced in the living room did the trick

Now, she deliberately brought a new shirt to further stir the pot, hoping their disagreement would intensify, possibly even explode today.

Seeing Jared's dark expression, Beatrice entered the room and placed the clothes in conspicuous spot on the bed.

"I'll leave these here, I'll go now"

Beatrice worried she might have pushed too far and Jared would resent her, so she left hastily after placing the clothes.

She'd said her piece, now it was just a matter of how much they would fight

Agnes was stubborn and wouldn't easily back down. The more people misunderstood her, the less inclined she was to explain. Her pride would surely be her downfall

The room suddenly fell silent.

Jared closed the door and locked it, then came over.

Agnes rubbed her arm, her voice laced with cold indifference, "You're not planning to stay here tonight, are you?"

Jared hadn't brought any clothes and there weren't any he could change into here.

Plus, he was a clean freak, there was no way he would wear the same clothes two days in a row

He wasn't sure where Beatrice had gotten these clothes from to stir the pot

But according to his nature, he wouldn't wear these clothes whether they belonged to Elton or not

His nightclothes at home were custom-made by top Italian tailors, time-consuming and expensive. Such a man who demanded high standards in life would hardly settle for these "rough clothes". Jared looked at Agnes. "You in a rush to get rid of me?"

Agnes felt exasperated, "That's not what I meant. Are you going to wear these clothes?"

Jared casually picked up a shirt from the bed, clearly disliking it, "Your ex-boyfriend had terrible taste, to actually wear something like this out."

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Agnes murmured. This isn't his shirt. He never wears blue."

Jared's face darkened even more, "So you still remember his preferences, huh?"

Agnes had no comeback.

This guy was a pro at arguing.

"I was just pointing out that it's not his shirt. If you don't mind, you can wear it."

"I do mind"

Agnes was taken aback, "Then go home, I don't have any clothes here for you to change into."

"Agnes, you should know, the more you want me to leave, the less I'm going to."

Agnes felt exhausted, she wasn't really thinking that.

"Suit yourself then, I'm going to take a shower."

Agnes grabbed some clothes from the wardrobe and went into the bathroom.

After she went in, Agnes hesitated for a moment, but she decided to lock the bathroom door

When Agnes emerged from her room, she found Jared sitting on the single sofa, arms crossed, emanating an aura of indifference. His face had grown even colder than before, leaving Agnes perplexed about what could have happened.

Suddenly, Jared's voice pierced through the tense silence, sounding cold and distant

"Agnes, do you see me as a bad guy?"

Caught off guard, Agnes was taken aback and replied, "I don't understand what you mean"

Jared pressed on, his tone still icy. “Why did you lock the bathroom door before you took a shower?”

As Agnes continued to dry her hair, she paused for a moment, trying to grasp the situation. Then, she nonchalantly responded, “You knew I was taking a shower, so why did you attempt to open the door? I locked it just to keep the creeps out.”

“You’re saying I’m a creep?”

“I didn’t say that, you said it yourself.”

Jared was pissed, he got up and walked towards Agnes.

Agnes felt an unexplained sense of danger.

Before she could react, she was already in Jared’s arms.

Agnes instinctively wrapped her arms around Jared’s neck.

But she quickly let go of him, “Jared, what are you trying to do?”

“Since you labeled me a bad guy, I can’t let that title go to waste, can I?”

The next second, Agnes found herself pinned down on the bed, as Jared’s passionate kiss descended upon her. His touch on her smooth skin made Jared tremble with emotion. Agnes had a faint, intoxicating scent.

The longing Jared felt for her was immeasurable.

During the days they were apart, Jared felt unlike himself. Agnes’s face constantly appeared in his mind, even as he toiled late into the night, exhausted from work. Yet, every night when he returned, sleep eluded him. He felt an emptiness beside him, as though something crucial was missing.

In just a few months, Agnes had become an integral part of Jared's life, deeply ingrained like a habit.

To make matters worse, he even dreamed of her. Waking up in the middle of the night and seeing the empty space beside him, Jared could only feel a dull ache in his chest

He had thought a lot during these days.

He knew he had lost his senses this time.

If it were anyone else, he wouldn't have cared.

Whether it was her first love Elton or later Justin

He had never felt such pain before

Because I was Ryder, his beloved nephew since childhood, the person he owed the most in his life.

Whenever Jared thought of these, he felt an unbearable pain in his heart

Long and passionate kisses seemed to no longer satisfy him He began to forcefully tear at Agnes's nightgown...

Jared's attitude flipped so fast that Agnes couldn't even catch up.

Chapter 233

Jared was lounging on the bed, with a smug grin still plastered on his face.

And it suddenly dawned on Agnes.

All of his earlier behavior was just an act

Agnes immediately scowled.

Then she silently stood up, looking down at Jared

Jared raised an eyebrow, but felt a chill coming from Agnes, “What are you up to?”

Agnes stomped on his stomach. “You’re so annoying!”

Although it was out of anger, Agnes didn’t really stomp hard.

She didn’t want to stir up the calm situation again.

After stomping, Agnes lay back on the bed, burrowed into the covers, and turned her back on Jared, ignoring him.

Jared walked over and lifted the blanket, “Are you mad?”

Actually, she wasn’t angry, but she went from being worried to suddenly realizing she had been played.

A mix of relief and anger, the feelings were complex.

Jared didn’t tease her anymore

He got up and headed for the bathroom.

But once he was inside, Jared didn’t come out for a long time

Agnes guessed, maybe he didn’t have any clothes to wear.

This guy was probably hesitating inside.

He surely wouldn’t wear the clothes Beatrice brought.

And the clothes he had taken off, he wouldn’t wear them again.

Agnes secretly peeked out from under the blanket, looking towards the bathroom.

She wanted to see how Jared would come out.

He couldn't possibly stay in the bathroom the whole night

After a while, Jared finally came out.

But to Agnes's embarrassment, he was stark naked.

He just casually wrapped a white towel around his lower body.

That was her towel, thin and small

She could vaguely see....

As Jared lay down next to Agnes, her face instantly turned red Embarrassed, she covered her face with the blanket and avoided eye contact with him. Jared seemed exhausted, his steady breathing indicating that he had fallen asleep.

However, Agnes couldn't find sleep herself. Its understandable that anyone would have trouble sleeping with their naked husband lying next to them, and he had a handsome face

Because of this, Agnes didn't dare to turn over, she just stayed by the edge of the bed

For the first time, Agnes suffered from insomnia with Jared lying next to her

Since she couldn't sleep, Agnes got up.

She carefully lifted the blanket and headed for the bathroom.

Jared was exhausted, the work pressure these days was heavy and his mood was gloomy, he always had trouble sleeping.

But today, he didn't expect to fall asleep as soon as he lay down.

However, as soon as Agnes got up, he woke up

He didn't know where she was going, and after a while, Agnes still hadn't come out of the bathroom. He could hear occasional small sounds from inside.

Curiosity piqued, Jared stood up, wrapped in a blanket, and walked towards the bathroom. To his surprise, he found Agnes washing his shirt. The shirt was already clean, but there was no dryer in the room. So, Agnes resorted to using a hairdryer to try to dry the shirt.

Jared was at a loss for words, feeling a warm and affectionate emotion welling up from the bottom of his heart. He suddenly felt a bit regretful about something

Jared watched from outside the bathroom for a long time, but in the end, he couldn't resist walking straight in. He gently wrapped Agnes in the blanket, startling her. As she turned around, Jared kissed her.

Unlike their previous kisses, this time, his kiss was gentle, tender and cautious...

Chapter 234

Maybe it was because the light was too dim

Or maybe it was because the night was too beautiful

Agnes finally gave into temptation

Their bodies were pressed together tightly under the covers

In the heat of the moment. Agnes still had some sense. The clothes aren't dry yet

Jared pinned her against the bathroom wall, holding her waist tightly, changing positions, and a heated kiss followed

As their lips tangled together he mumbled “Screw it

In the morning. Agnes woke up to the sensation of something tickling her face, like feather She rubbed her eyes, and as she opened them, she was greeted by a handsome face that made her heart flutter Jared was already awake, his fingers gently touching her brows.

Confused. Agnes frowned and asked, “What are you doing?”

Jared’s voice hoarse from sleep, carried a certain magnetism as he replied, “Nothing just wanted to look at you.”

His simple words made Agnes blush

Agnes dared not meet Jared’s eyes, they seemed to sparkle

Agnes puffed out her cheeks unconsciously, “Sweet-mouthed guy”

Jared leaned towards Agnes, pulling her into his embrace

That in itself was nothing, but Agnes’s hand accidentally touched something

Then she noticed that Jared was not wearing any clothes

She couldn’t help but say, “You’re too much, sleeping naked!”

“Is that too much? There’s worse, wanna see?”

Agnes quickly surrendered, “No, I’m too tired. I have school today.”

Last night they

Jared was like a wild beast that hadn't eaten in seven days.

Jared smirked. Then just let me hold you and don't move

But it seemed Agnes remembered something, she pushed Jared away. "Your clothes

Having said that, she got up and went to the bathroom

Jared frowned

When Agnes came out of the bathroom, she looked dejected

She was still holding Jared's shirt from yesterday

She couldn't sleep last night and decided to wash Jared's shirt since she couldn't sleep anyway, otherwise he wouldn't have anything to wear the next day Who knew that in the middle of drying the shirt, Jared suddenly came in

Then

At that time the shirt was just thrown on the sink, it was still wet and wrinkled completely unwearable

Agnes came over and complained. "This is all your fault, look what happened to the shirt?"

Jared laughed. "Okay is all my fault but it's just a shirt, why do you care so much

'I'm not worried about the shirt. I'm worried about what you're going to wear out today

Just as Agnes finished speaking there was a knock on the door

Agnes was puzzled Who would come knocking so early?

Jared Leaned to understand something “Go and open the door it should be the solution to your problem”

Agnes walked over with a juzzled jook

Unexpectedly it was Jared a secretary Lec at the door

Leo was holding several preses of clothing saying “Mc Whitfield asked me to bring se

Agnes was stunned for a moment. Thank you”

“You’re welcome, it’s my jou have to yo now

Agnes turned back to the room “Looks like you had akeady plated for tem to bring clošima

Jared had already sat up “But really appreciate you washing my clothes last nigh

Agnes walked over and threw the clothes on him “Twas just named you wouldn’t be anything to wear and it would be awkward when you go out.”

Chapter 235

They both started to get up and dress.

Not long after, the doorbell rang again.

Agnes went to answer the door, and there stood Beatrice.

Agnes asked, “What brings you here this early?”

Beatrice was busy peeping into the room.

Upon seeing Jared, she said, “You’re up already. My mom wants you to come over for breakfast, she made soup herself.”

By then, Jared had made his way to the door.

He casually asked Agnes, “Can you check this button for me? It won’t button up.”

Agnes turned around.

Jared’s shirt was on, except for the collar button.

Agnes turned back to help Jared button up, and it was done in no time.

But Jared grabbed Agnes hand and kissed it gently. “Thanks, honey”

Seeing this, Beatrice’s face darkened.

Jared then acted like he just noticed her, his voice instantly cold, “Got it. We’ll be right over.”

Beatrice forced a smile, “I’ll be going then. Hurry up.”

She left, clenching her fists.

She had initially come to witness their meltdown.

She thought the two would quarrel over Elton, but how come their relationship seemed even better after a night?

And Jared’s gaze seemed to linger on Agnes all the time.

He didn’t even look at her from start to finish

Beatrice was fuming

She couldn't help but storm into the kitchen.

She said to Laura, "I can't stand it anymore. Didn't you say they'd be divorced within a year? Why are they still together?"

Laura glanced at the door and glared at Beatrice, "Watch your mouth. What if someone heard?"

Beatrice was exasperated, "Seeing them so intimate imitates me. Why would someone as outstanding as Jared fall for an ordinary woman like Agnes? I'm younger and prettier than Agnes Why won't he even glance at me?"

Laura spoke calmly, "Men need variety sometimes. He might be tired of the same type of women. If he likes Agnes' type, you need to act more graceful and innocent in front of him. Look at you now, can't even hold it in. How are you going to replace Agnes and become Jared's wife?"

The mention of Jared's wife excited Beatrice immensely.

Beatrice tugged at Laura's arm, "Mom, tell me, what's your plan? I don't want to wait anymore. Help me, mom

"Alright, calm down. Don't worry, Agnes' birthday is coming I need to confirm something. It's a great opportunity! At breakfast

Laura said, 'Agnes, your birthday is coming. Your dad and I discussed, we didn't celebrate your 20th birthday properly last year, so we want to make it up to you this year Your dad has booked a floor at Caesar International Hospital, We're going to throw you a proper party. We'll invite all your friends and classmates, including Jared. You can let his family know. We hope they can make it'

Jared responded, "Of course, I'll be there."

Actually, Agnes never thought about having a big party.

But Laura and Preston didn't discuss with her and sent out all the invitations

They even invited all the big shots.

In the past, these people might not necessarily show

But this time, no one was missing.

Chapter 236

People naturally went because of the Whitfields.

That day was November 11th.

It's a day jokingly called "Singles Day". This time last year, Agnes ended her decade-long relationship.

She felt like her world was collapsing.

But now, as Agnes glanced at the man driving next to her...

Well, life's like a box of chocolates.

You never know if the next one's gonna be bitter or sweet.

"Why are you staring at me? Do you think your husband is particularly handsome today?"

Jared's teasing words came from the side.

Agnes snapped back to reality.

These days, Agnes moved back to Maplewood Manor.

Although they made up, there's still this issue.

The name "Ryder" was like a ticking bomb between them.

It's not that they've resolved it, but they've mutually decided to put it aside.

And Agnes knew, this ticking bomb would eventually explode at some point.

"Jared, you're not young anymore, you need to accept that you're getting old."

"Agnes, I'm only 28"

"28 is old enough."

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Jared frowned, fell silent for a while, then said, "In that case, let's have a kid. After all, if we don't have one now, I'll only be having one when I'm old."

Agnes instantly became alert at these words.

These days, Tim was always persuading them to have a kid

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He even had someone send over some nourishing food.

Agnes was helpless

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Agnes quickly changed her tone, "Jared, you're still young, you should prioritize your career, we can take our time with the baby thing

"You're wrong, I want a kid more" Jared responded casually.

“Jared, you’re still young, no rush.”

Just now she was saying he’s old, now she’s saying he’s young

Agnes’ attitude changes really fast.

They soon arrived at the Caesar International Hospital,

A waiter immediately welcomed them.

After getting out of the car, Agnes and Jared went to the banquet hall on the top floor together.

Caesar International Hospital is the city’s most luxurious top-tier hotel

Once they entered, they felt like they were in a palace.

The banquet hall was already filled with people.

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They were dressed luxurious, adorned with a variety of jewels Occasionally raising their glasses, chatting happily. The crystal chandelier was like a waterfall of light, slowly flowing.

As the main characters, Agnes and Jared attracted countless gazes as soon as they entered

Agnes was only wearing a white cocktail dress with light makeup. She had naturally glowing skin, hair as bright as seaweed, rosy lips and white teeth, she looked like Snow White from a fairy tale

Jared was also dressed in a suit, looking dashing.

The two of them standing together were like a prince and a princess, a perfect match

When they entered, Agnes was originally walking behind Jared Jared deliberately slowed down to wait for her. When they were walking side by side, he held Agnes arm and put it in his

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Almost all the guests had arrived.

Preston and Tim were chatting, and Laura was also next to them.

When they saw Agnes and Jared coming over, Laura said, ‘Agnes, you’re the star today, how could you be so late and keep everyone waiting? It’s really not appropriate.’

Before Agnes had a chance to reply, Jared casually said, “I was in a meeting, which delayed us a little. Besides, today is Agnes’ birthday. The birthday girl is of course the most important. Even If wo keep everyone waiting for a while, it’s only right Don’t you think so, Ms. Laura?”

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Jared was clearly defending Agnes

Laura retorted, “Well duh, it’s Agnes’ birthday. We’re throwing her a party so she can have a good time.”

Some of the old timers from the Whitfield family were there too.

Agnes went around giving them a nod and a smile.

Then she saw Ryder again.

He was standing behind Alyssa, all quiet and observant, like some kind of invisible stalker.

Agnes’ heart did a weird flip-flop in her chest

Jared's words echoed in her mind, "Ryder likes you"

Agnes shook her head involuntarily.

No way!

Absolutely no way!

That's just Jared being paranoid!

Agnes exchanged a few words with Ryder

Then they both dispersed.

This birthday shindig wasn't a run-of-the-mill party, it was more like a fancy dinner.

There were all sorts of buffets lined up in the banquet hall.

Champagne towers were all the rage.

Most folks were holding a glass of champagne, having a grand old time.

There was a huge dance floor in the banquet hall.

Lots of people were waltzing around

Quite a few big shots from Starlight International Group were there too.

Seeing Agnes and Jared, they came over to congratulate her.

Agnes wasn't really into these kinds of things, but it was her birthday bash, so she had to put up with it.

Preston and Laura were hobnobbing with some business bigwigs.

In reality, Agnes felt like this wasn't so much a birthday celebration for her, but more of a networking opportunity for the Pritchard family using the Whitfield family. And it was not a good feeling

Beatrice was originally chatting with a group of socialites.

Seeing Jared, she made a beeline for him...

She sweetly called out, "Jared."

Both Jared and Agnes turned to look at Beatrice.

Agnes frowned

The dress Beatrice was wearing... it was hers.

Beatrice saw Jared scrutinizing her, and she blushed.

Laura had told her to emulate Agnes' style since Jared seemed to like it.

This dress was one she had found in Agnes' wardrobe. It was a beige dress with tiny flower prints. She thought it was a bit out of date, but maybe Jared liked this style.

Beatrice said to Jared in front of Agnes, "You're making me blush, staring at me like that."

Jared said, "That dress you're wearing..."

Beatrice's heart fluttered.

It's working! Jared really likes this style!

She had always dressed to the nines whenever she saw Jared, but he had never looked at her this way before.

Beatrice was over the moon.

Just when Beatrice was expecting a compliment, Jared suddenly said, "It's really ugly!"

Beatrice was taken aback.

Without waiting for Beatrice's reaction, he grabbed Agnes' hand and walked away.

Beatrice was so pissed she wanted to tear her dress off right there and then.

She knew just Agnes had terrible taste! How could Jared possibly like it? Perhaps Agnes intentionally left this ugly dress in her wardrobe to embarrass her. Beatrice clenched her fist.

"You were wearing it, it would look great. But on someone else, it looks terrible!"

Agnes sighed, “I really don’t know what Beatrice sees in you. She’s always trying to win you over

“Does she really like me? She’s just interested in my fame”

“And how do you know I’m not interested in your fame?”

‘Because.. last night, you cried and told me you love me”

Agnes’ face turned red at the memory of last night. She was out of it then, were her words even credible? And she didn’t remember saying anything like that.

“What? You don’t remember? Do we need to revisit it tonight?”

“Jared, stop teasing me”

Chapter 238

For the celebrity party, Agnes found it quite dull, even though she was the center of attention today. There weren’t many people present, and none of them were her friends. On the contrary, Beatrice had invited all of her friends, and the socialites from the Capital seemed more interested in making friends with her.

Beatrice had changed into another outfit, and now she looked like a radiant butterfly gracefully dancing among the flowers. She was dancing with Chester, the star from Starlight International Group

Many stars from Starlight International Group attended the party this time, but Agnes noticed that Justin hadn’t come. On the other hand, Ivan was present and currently engaged in conversation with Jared

Century Entertainment and Starlight International Group had been competitors in the past, but their relationship seemed relatively good since their joint investment in “The

Magical Romance of Cinderella” However, Agnes believed that it was only superficial. In the business world, there are no permanent friends or enemies, only eternal interests.

Feeling bored, Agnes ate some food and then went to the rooftop terrace.

At that moment Alyssa was chatting with several top models, and Laura approached her with a wine glass, saying, “Alyssa, your outfit today must be the latest Chanel collection, perfect for your style.”

Alyssa raised her glass and smiled, “Thank you. We are family now” They began conversing with each other

Seeing them talking, the other models tactfully moved away.

Laura said, “Although Agnes doesn’t have a mother, with a caring sister like you, her father and I can rest assured.

Alyssa chuckled. “Agnes is a good kid, pure-hearted and kind. I really like her.”

Laura sighed, “Actually, her father and I feel indebted to her Despite treating her like my own daughter, she has always been distant from me. She feels like I’ invaded her family, and until now, she has never called me ‘mom! Over the years, she has become somewhat isolated, and her father and I have been worried about her mental well-being. But now, with Jared’s love and your affection, I don’t have to feel so guilty anymore.”

As Laura spoke casually, Alyssa was taken aback, “Agnes is not your biological daughter?”

Alyssa is always busy, mostly in foreign countries, so she doesn’t know much about the domestic situation.

Laura sighed, “Even though her father and I have been married for ten years, she still calls me Ms. Laura Maybe I am not doing enough as a stepmother, she never regards me as her real mother”

Having said this, Alyssa suddenly recalled. Although Jared and Agnes were married now, their marriage was a secret at first and both families knew nothing about it. After the news was revealed, they just met once over a meal.

Since there were no immediate plans for a wedding, the two families had little interaction.

At the last meeting. Agnes didn't address Laura and their relationship didn't seem close.

Alyssa suddenly thought of something. “What was Agnes's biological mother's name?

“Her name was Julia. She was a very famous movie star twenty years ago.”

As Alyssa heard this, her fingers loosened and the champagne glass in her hand fell to the ground, shattering into pieces

Alyssa said “Sorry” and immediately bent down to clean up the mess.

But she cut her finger on the shard of glass and blood trickled down her fingertip.

Laura immediately called over the waitstaff who quickly cleaned up the shattered glass

Alyssa apologized, “I'm so clumsy.”

Laura pretended to be concerned, “You should get some ointment for that cut. You look pale, are you feeling okay?”

Alyssa replied, “I'm fine, just a bit tired. I'll go rest for a bit.”

With that, Alyssa turned around and left with the waiter.

Chapter 239

Alyssa's fading figure gradually disappeared from Laura's sight, and she cracked a smile, realizing that everything she had dug up was indeed true. After leaving the chapel hall, Agnes finally exhaled a sigh of relief. Today, she had decided to wear high heels, but unfortunately, she accidentally twisted her ankle. Luckily, there was a bench on the rooftop where she could sit

Agnes took off her shoes and started rubbing her foot when she heard a cold voice from the side. Turning her head, she saw Ryder standing there, holding an ointment. Confused, she asked, "What are you doing here?"

"I followed you up here, Ryder replied calmly. This ointment can help with your pain. He handed it over to her.

Curious, Agnes took the ointment and questioned, "Why do you have this?"

Ryder sat down beside her and explained, "I saw you twist your ankle and asked an attendant for it"

"Thanks," Agnes replied, feeling a bit unsure of how to react. She squeezed out the ointment and applied it to her ankle. The atmosphere between them fell into

silence

Seeing Ryder again brought a mix of emotions for Agnes. The deserted rooftop was now just occupied by the two of them, and she couldn't help but consider what Jared might think if he saw them together.

Agnes finished applying the ointment and said, "I should probably head back."

Ryder was silent for a moment, then asked, “Are you avoiding me?”

Agnes answered awkwardly, “Of course not, I just feel a bit cold”

“You don’t have to pretend. I know you’ve been avoiding me. At school, you act like you don’t see me. Is it because of Jared?”

“He’s just too suspicious.”

Thinking about this, Agnes couldn’t help but feel angry.

But immediately, she realized her words might have given Ryder the wrong idea.

Agnes quickly clarified, I didn’t mean that, he’s not suspicious of us. I mean, he’s just a suspicious person, it’s not about you.. Agnes suddenly felt she was making a mess of things, the more she explained, the worse it seemed to get.

But Ryder didn’t react, and she wasn’t sure if he understood.

Agnes suddenly fell silent.

She took a deep breath, determined to clarify the situation, especially since Jared had also asked her to figure it out on her own.

Agnes said, “Maybe it’s because we’ve been rehearsing together and spending so much time together that he’s become a bit jealous.”

Feeling awkward, Agnes continued, “You might find it absurd. We’ve been arguing about this, but now I believe we haven’t done anything wrong, and time will prove

It’

‘Agnes, have you seen Robin Hood?’ Ryder suddenly interjected in a calm tone.

Agnes hesitated slightly. “Yes, I have. What about it?”

Ryder’s voice sounded somewhat distant and chilly

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“In Robin Hood, there’s a scene that left a deep impression on me. Maid Marian tells Robin Hood. We were once betrothed, but now I am maimed to my husband Now that I’ve met you again, people will surely think I still love you. If I were to ask for your help again, they’d all call me shameless and unfaithful Robin Hood hurriedly replies, “We only need to be true to our own conscience and not care about what others say Maid Marian asks, ‘But what if I feel guilty in my own conscience?’”

After Ryder finished speaking, there was a moment of silence all around

It felt as if Agnes’s heart had plunged into an abyss.

Then, she heard Ryder’s indifferent voice again from beside her, “Agnes, but what if I feel guilty in my own conscience?”

Chapter 240

Agnes was staring blankly at Ryder

She totally didn't see that coming.

As always, Ryder's face was cold and indifferent.

He spoke as if he was telling someone else's story, flat and emotionless.

Yet Agnes was totally freaking out.

Agnes barely dared to look into Ryder's eyes: "Why would you...?"

Agnes was a complete mess

Ryder calmly replied, "Im telling you this just to let you know that he didn't misunderstand me. I don't want you to not believe him and cause misunderstandings between you two"

Agnes was at a loss for words.

So, Ryder's admission now was also to prove that Jared was right, to avoid any conflict between them?

But

Agnes felt like things just got a whole lot more complicated.

Ryder paused for a moment, his voice seemed to drift from afar

"Agnes, Ive liked you for a long time, since the first day of college when you handed nie a bottle of mineral water I didn't want to say it, but I know that hiding it now would only cause more misunderstandings. But there's only one thing I want to tell you now, Agnes, like you. It's my business, not yours, you get it?"

After saying this, Ryder turned around and left the rooftop.

Agnes stood there dumbfounded, staring at his back, muttering to herself, “I don’t get it.”

Agnes was zoning out on the balcony..

A gust of cold wind blew by, clearing her muddled thoughts a little.

Once Agnes came to her senses, she realized that she had misunderstood Jared.

And during that time, Agnes thought Jared was just being unreasonable, petty, and ridiculous.

But now..

Agnes found herself overwhelmed with emotions as she stood on the rooftop. After a while, lost in her thoughts, she decided to head inside. Unaware of her surroundings, she accidentally bumped into a man, and her reflex made her step back and apologize. It was then that she recognized the man as Ivan. Ivan chuckled, teasing her, “You still got that habit of not looking where you’re going, huh?”

The memory of Ivan saving her from a near accident while crossing the street flashed in Agnes’s mind. She felt a bit embarrassed and assured him, “I’ll be more careful.”

As Agnes tried to move past him, Ivan called her back. Curious, she turned around and asked, “What’s up?”

Ivan informed her, “The premiere date for *The Magical Romance of Cinderella*’ is set for Christmas, a month from now. Are you available? I’d like you to participate in the pre-launch promotional activities”

Agnes replied eagerly, “Sure, I’m free. Just send me the schedule when it’s ready”

Even though Agnes hadn't signed any contracts, she felt it was the least she could do as a main cast member of the show.

Ivan suggested, "Let's have lunch together tomorrow. I'd like to discuss our upcoming work schedule in detail"

Agnes agreed right away

"Oh, by the way, have you seen Jared?*

Ivan replied. "He should be in the break room. I heard Alyssa might have gotten hurt, and Jared went to see her."

Hearing that Alyssa might be injured, Agnes, not knowing what had happened, immediately said. "I'll go check on her too!

Chapter 241

Agnes made a beeline for the lounge.

The lounge door was wide open, with only Jared and Alyssa inside.

Without hesitation, Agnes walked in and called, "Alyssa."

Alyssa looked up. As her gaze fell on Agnes's face, Alyssa felt a momentary blur in her vision.

There was something about Agnes's appearance that had struck her as odd the first time they met.

Yet, she couldn't fathom why she hadn't given it more thought back then. Agnes resembled Julia so much that it had been impossible for Alyssa to ignore.

Concerned about Alyssa's injury, Agnes approached her and asked. "You okay, girl? I heard you got hurt. Where did you get banged up?" Observing Alyssa's hand wrapped in gauze, Agnes reached out to check on it, but to her surprise, Alyssa pulled her hand away and responded distantly. "I'm fine."

Feeling a bit awkward, Agnes straightened up and withdrew her hand, glancing briefly at Jared, who seemed to wear a slight frown. Just then, Ryder walked into the scene.

Seeing Ryder seemed to make Agnes nervous.

She didn't even dare to meet Ryder's eyes, just kept her head down, pretending she hadn't seen him.

Clearly, Alyssa had called Ryder over

After Ryder entered, Alyssa stood up and told Jared, "I'm beat today, headed back."

Jared nodded, "Rest up, I'll drop by tomorrow"

Alyssa forced a smile, then left with Ryder.

The lounge suddenly fell silent.

Finally, Agnes spoke up, "What's up with Alyssa? She seems down."

Jared pondered, "I'm not sure either."

Then he turned to her, "What about you?"

Agnes was taken aback, "What?"

"You seemed a bit awkward when you saw Ryder, didn't you??"

“I wasn’t feeling awkward.”

“Agnes, stop playing games with me”

Agnes was silent for a while, lowered her head and whispered, “I’m sorry.”

After Agnes finished, Jared didn’t respond.

After a while, Agnes looked up, puzzled.

She met Jared’s bright eyes.

Jared spoke up in a seemingly casual tone, “So, Ryder came clean with you?”

Agnes knew that a sharp guy like Jared would be able to figure everything out.

Just like how he had figured out Ryder’s special feelings for her, while she had been completely clueless.

Agnes told him everything that had happened on the balcony.

After she finished, she sneaked a peek at Jared

Jared’s expression didn’t change, he wasn’t angry, just seemed to have expected everything.

“I know I misunderstood you before, I just thought you were narrow-minded and easily jealous, I didn’t expect…”

“With your slow brain, you wouldn’t have figured it out. After all, Ryder is a tough nut to crack.”

If it hadn’t been for that kiss on the balcony, Jared might not have discovered Ryder’s secret feelings.

Ryder's hiding skills were top notch. He had pretended to despise Agnes so much.

Looking back, he was just covering his affection for her

Agnes, like a guilty child, tip-toed to Jared, gently shook his hand, "Don't be mad, it's my fault for misunderstanding you. I'll listen to you in the future, and I won't doubt you anymore"

Jared was satisfied with Agnes's apology

"Really? You'll do whatever I say?"

Agnes nodded earnestly, "Absolutely"

"Then let's have a baby"

"No, I can't do that, Jared, I haven't graduated yet."

"You and our daughter can take graduation photos together"

"Why a daughter? What if it's a son?"

"If it's a son, we'll have another one, a daughter." Jared was getting closer to Agnes, It's a big task, so we need to get a move on, darling, maybe we could start night

now

Agnes finally realized she was being teased by Jared pretending to be angry. "Iared think wou nis i to not cama eun

Chapter 242

This place is a lounge after all, folks might pop in anytime.

And naturally, Jared wouldn't do anything too out of line.

He cracked a joke to his wife, then left the lounge with a satisfied smirk.

Agnes, pouting like a goldfish, followed him out.

Outside, the scene was still lively, people were toasting and having a good time.

Suddenly, Jared stopped in his tracks, turned around, one hand behind him and the other extended out in a classic invitation-to-dance pose, looking utterly gentlemanly and charming.

Agnes was momentarily stunned, then asked, “What are you doing?”

“May I have this dance?” Jared’s voice was deep, dripping with allure.

Agnes placed her hand in his palm, like a proud little swan, “I’d be delighted.”

Together, they stepped onto the dance floor.

Because of a previous acting gig, Agnes had been schooled by a dance teacher.

Until that moment, Agnes had never danced with Jared. The experience was entirely different from anything she had felt before.

When they danced together, she noticed how Jared’s palm was dry and warm, and they were so close that she could catch the scent of his freshness.

His eyes, usually reserved in showing emotion, now seemed filled with an intensity that made him captivating, especially with the chandelier above casting a golden halo around him.

Agnes couldn’t tear her eyes away from Jared, as he seemed to glow, utterly enchanting her. The world around them faded into the background, and they locked eyes for a brief moment before Jared lowered his head, and their lips met in a kiss.

As they waltzed, the onlookers couldn’t help but react with surprised cheers and wolf whistles.

The dancing crowd came to a halt, and all eyes were on Agnes and Jared. Normally, being the center of attention would make Agnes uncomfortable, but tonight was different. She was lost in the magical atmosphere, and everything else seemed to disappear, leaving only Jared and his captivating glow.

Agnes thought of a saying. “He’s like a rainbow, only when you encounter him do you realize how extraordinary he is.”

The applause and cheers continued.

Mostly, it was the envious whispers of women.

“Mr. Whitfield and Ms. Pritchard are a perfect match, like a real-life Prince and Princess.”

“Yeah, Ms. Pritchard is so lucky. She’s not the most beautiful, nor does she come from the best family, but she won Mr. Whitfield’s affection.”

“Beatrice, your sister married Mr. Whitfield, you’ll surely benefit. Mr. Whitfield has so many great people around him, have him introduce you to someone, you could have a good marriage too”

Beatrice, seeing all this, was so angry she was lost for words

She said indignantly, “Let’s see how long their love lasts.”

With that, she stormed off.

By the time Agnes and Jared returned, it was already late.

Once in the car, Agnes realized how hungry she was.

She had barely eaten anything all night.

Jared said, “There’s food in the back seat.”

Agnes turned around and almost screamed, “When did you get this birthday cake?”

Agnes quickly took it, then opened it up..

The cake was small, but very delicate and cute.

Agnes immediately picked up a spoon and started eating.

Jared frowned, “You haven’t made a wish yet.”

“I forgot”

With that, Agnes placed the cake on her lap, put her hands together, closed her eyes, and made a wish

“What did you wish for?” Jared asked

Chapter 243

Agnes said, “I hope my studies go smoothly, and my grandmother stays healthy and lives to at least a hundred.”

Thinking of her grandmother, Agnes felt guilty. It was her birthday today, but her father hadn’t invited her grandmother, and she hadn’t visited her grandma in a long time.

Jared furrowed his brows.

He noticed that his name wasn’t mentioned in her wishes. He let out a faint hum, clearly dissatisfied, “Stupid girl, don’t you know that wishes won’t come true if you say them out loud?”

Agnes replied, “If you already knew that saying them out loud would prevent them from coming true, why did you ask me in the first place?”

Agnes continued to enjoy her cake.

However, suddenly she let out a scream and found a diamond ring inside the cake. She was pleasantly surprised and quickly wiped off the cream from the ring using a tissue.

Then, with excitement, she handed the ring to Jared, “Is this the birthday gift you got for me?”

Jared raised an eyebrow, “Do you like it?”

Of course, Agnes liked it, not just because it was a diamond ring, but because Jared had prepared a gift for her. She had felt a bit disappointed earlier

Agnes smiled and glanced at Jared, “You hid it so well. Weren’t you afraid I might have swallowed it just now?”

“It’s my fault for not considering everything. You’re quite clumsy, and it’s possible you could have done something like that.”

Agnes frowned, “Jared, do you really think I’m that dumb in your eyes?”

Jared fell silent for a moment and then said seriously, “Perhaps among the women I know, you are the dumbest.”

Agnes was angry. Why was this person so unpleasant?

“Why would you marry someone as dumb as me and even give me a ring?” Agnes asked, puzzled.

They had secretly married before, simply obtaining their marriage certificate, and Jared hadn’t given her a ring. So when she saw the ring as a gift, she was pleasantly surprised. The current Agnes was completely different from before; she now eagerly anticipated the sense of ceremony that came with a wedding. To her, this was the best gift.

But now that he had given her a gift, why couldn’t he say a few words of praise?

Jared calmly said, “Because I love you, dear. Happy birthday”

Agnes was stunned for a moment.

Why was he always full of surprises?

He had almost never said he loved her

Her nose felt sour, and tears threatened to flow.

For the first time, Agnes felt grateful that she had met this man and fallen in love with him. He made her previously lonely and empty life feel so warm and stable.

“I love you too, forever...” Agnes responded in her heart.

The next day!

Agnes slept until 10 in the morning. She must have overslept because she was so tired from last night. Fortunately, she didn't have any classes today.

Agnes remembered she had an appointment with Ivan and quickly got up to wash and change.

She got ready quickly and headed straight to the Century Building.

A group of reporters surrounded the entrance to the Century Building, but Agnes didn't find it strange. This building housed many celebrities, and it was a common place for entertainment journalists to hang out.

Agnes dressed modestly and wore a scarf and a hat, quickly blending into the crowd.

As soon as she entered the Century Building, the reporters behind her suddenly became lively.

A luxurious car had stopped outside.

Amid the crowd, Mamie stepped out of the car

Chapter 244

Mamie being here was no surprise, being the top dog at Century Entertainment.

But considering their past, Agnes thought it best to steer clear of her.

And so, she quickly ducked into the elevator and made a beeline for Ivan's office.

Since they'd set up a meeting beforehand, Ivan's secretary Faye ushered her in no problem.

Ivan was on the phone and motioned for Agnes to take a seat on the couch.

Agnes sat, quietly waiting.

After a bit, Ivan hung up, walked over and apologized for making her wait.

"No biggie," Agnes replied with a smile, "I've only been here for five minutes."

"What's for lunch today?" Ivan asked.

"I'm easy," she responded, "You pick the place. Lunch is on me this time. I still owe you for the favor you did me."

Ivan responded softly, "You promised me one thing. I can't let you off the hook that easily. I'm buying today"

Today's agenda was all business

Agnes didn't push it, "Alright, I'll take you out another time."

Ivan passed Agnes a document, "This is your promotional schedule for the next few days. Let me know if there's anything you're not cool with."

Agnes flipped through it. "Shouldn't be a problem. I'll do my best to cooperate"

“Agnes,” Ivan began, “I hope you’ll reconsider signing with us.”

Agnes had managed to dodge signing a contract when she was filming the TV series, and had managed to turn down Ivan’s offers since

Agnes gave a small smile, “Showbiz isn’t really my thing.”

“But you’re already in it” Ivan pointed out, “After Christmas, when *The Magical Romance of Cinderella*’s airs, I’m sure you’ll blow up. I’ve got a couple of solid movie scripts, if you sign, you can pick one you like and ride the wave. I can make you the next Mamie” His voice was calm but firm.

“Think she can be the next me? Not on my watch!”

The office door swung open.

Mamie walked in.

She must’ve just come from an event, wearing only a thin dress despite the November chill

A fur shawl draped over her shoulders, her hair cascading down, her makeup icy.

Mamie walked in, slamming her purse on Ivan’s desk, “You know I can’t stand her. Why would you want to sign her up? Century Entertainment can have me or her, not both. Choose wisely”

Ivan frowned, “Mamie, don’t be unreasonable Business and private life are two different parts”

“To me, they’re one and the same

Mamie turned to Agnes, her powerful aura and heels making her tower over her

Almost arrogantly, Mamie said, “You stole Jared, now you want to take my place too? Agnes, no matter how sly you are, I won’t let you succeed. As long as I’m in this industry, you won’t have a chance to shine. Just you wait, I won’t make things easy for you.”

“Enough, Mamie!” Ivan roared.

Marie looked at Ivan, somewhat incredulous, “Brother, you’ve never yelled at me before.”

Mamie seemed to become more agitated, “Agnes, what have you done to them? They’re all losing themselves because of you. Today, I’m going to expose you for who you really are”

With that, she raised her hand to slap Agnes.

Chapter 245

Ivan had Mamie in a firm grip, “Mamie, I’ve spoiled you rotten. If you can’t change, you might as well go back to the country you used to live in.” With that, he forcefully let go of her arm.

Mamie was in disbelief. Her ever-doting brother, who had always listened to her since they were kids, had changed into a completely different person. He was treating her this way for a stranger, Furious, Mamie stormed off.

Agnes had witnessed the siblings’ spat. Although she seemed like a bystander, she was actually part of the drama, Ivan was furious too.

Agnes had never seen the usually calm and collected Ivan this angry, his veins were popping from his forehead. But when he faced Agnes, he quickly regained his composure, Tm sorry, Agnes. I apologize on her behalf. I spoiled her.”

Agnes managed a weak smile, "I'm okay"

During dinner, Ivan didn't bring up the contract signing again.

For the next month, Agnes was swamped. She was attending various promotional events, investor's dinners, and interviews. Despite the exhaustion, she was happy to be with old friends like Justin and Ava.

The only downside was running into Mamie in the entertainment industry. Mamie was arrogant and disrespectful. She was like an imperious queen. But everyone catered to her pampered het, happily crawling at her feet, calling her "queen."

There was a high-end jewelry auction dinner that night. The hosts were the investors of "The Magical Romance of Cinderella," so Agnes and her friends were in attendance. The event also attracted many socialites from the Capital

The highlight was a ruby necklace called "The Heart of the Kingdom." The ruby weighed 40.63 carats, surrounded by 150 diamonds of various sizes, worth around 14 million dollars. But the gem was reportedly reserved by a mysterious tycoon, not for auction, but as the final exhibit.

Almost all the top tycoons came for this. Agnes knew little about these jewels. She found events like these dull and would sneak off to play on her phone when she could.

The venue had two floors, the bottom floor being a huge banquet hall displaying the jewels to be auctioned, except for the necklace. It had a separate exhibition room and would only be open for the last half hour

Mamie was present too, and as per usual, would stir trouble when she saw Agnes. Wanting to avoid problems, Agnes decided to lay low and headed upstairs.

Agnes randomly chose a room, pushed the door open, and went in. The room was empty, devoid of any furniture, even a chair. The only oddity was the lighting on the walls and the ceiling

Noticing it wasn't a lounge, Agnes decided to leave, only to bump into Mamie at the door. Mamie frowned, her tone icy, "What are you doing here, sneaking around?"

Chapter 246

Agnes had already planned to avoid her,

Agnes responded: "It's nothing"

Then she was about to turn around and leave.

"Hold on."

Agnes turned back "What's up?*"

"Agnes, I don't care what Ivan promised you, but you better steer clear of him. He's been buddies with Jared for a long time. If you cause a rift between them, I won't let you off the hook."

Agnes felt uncomfortable: "Why would they fall out because of me?"

Mamie strode over, her haughty and cold gaze scanning Agnes: "I can't figure out what's so alluring about you. But you better behave yourself. I can't stand women like you who appear innocent but are actually manipulative. I've seen enough tricks in the entertainment industry, don't even think about trying to outwit me."

With that, Mamie strode off in her high heels.

Agnes was left puzzled.

She could tell that Mamie was hinting at something, but she had no clue what it was.

Since they'd already argued, Agnes decided to head downstairs.

She took out her phone from her purse to text Jared.

All her accessories were sponsored by luxury brands, including the small bag in her hand, studded with expensive pink diamonds. It was worth a fortune.

So Agnes was extra careful.

So bored Agnes texted Jared.

In a while, Jared texted back[Then come back early, I'll pick you up.]

[No can do, it's work. But it'd be nice if you were here]

Agnes added a sighing emoji.

After waiting a while, Jared didn't text back.

Agnes figured he was probably working overtime and didn't want to disturb him.

At that moment, Ava came over. "Agnes, why are you here alone? The auction is about to start, let's go watch together."

Agnes went with Ava to another showroom.

The precious jewels displayed earlier were being auctioned off one by one.

The starting bids were over \$100,000

Some antique jewelry even shot up to millions of dollars.

Ava enviously commented: “I wish someone would gift me a necklace like that one day. I bet wearing it would feel like being a British princess.”

Agnes teased her. “Wearing such a heavy thing around your neck, aren’t you tired?”

Ava rolled her eyes. “Agnes, you’re such a dummy!”

Agnes also found the necklaces beautiful, but to her, these luxuries were just embellishments. She had no obsession over them.

In fact, she didn’t wear necklaces or bracelets unless necessary, feeling they were constricting.

The jewels were auctioned off one by one.

Mamie bought three pieces in a row, worth over \$5 million in total, making everyone envious.

Finally, the last segment arrived.

The host announced “Now, for the most exciting part, I know you’re all eager. Let’s move to the second floor showroom to admire the top-tier jewelry “The Heart of the Kingdom I hope your visit is worthwhile.”

Everyone perked up

This necklace named “The Heart of the Kingdom” was rumored to be a beloved item of a queen. It’s not just a ruby necklace, but also symbolizes supreme power and honor. Only a true queen deserves to own it.

Chapter 247

Everyone was chatting while going upstairs.

“I heard ‘The Heart of the Kingdom’ has been bought by some mysterious rich man. I wonder who’s the lucky one to get such a rare treasure”

“Whoever owns The Heart of the Kingdom’ must be living the dream. Its value is off the charts now.”

They slowly made their way up and finally, led by a server, entered a room.

Agnes immediately realized that this was the weird exhibition room she had accidentally stumbled into earlier.

A wave of confusion washed over her.

If this was such a rare treasure, why was the exhibition room door unlocked, and she could just walk right in?

Everyone had entered the exhibition room.

The room had an unusual lighting, the light reflected off crystals and danced on the walls like flowing water.

She took a look around, feeling like she was under the sea.

The server held a remote and said, “Ladies and Gentlemen, please enjoy The Heart of the Kingdom.”

With that, he pushed a button, and as the music started, a lift appeared in the exhibition center.

On the lift was a transparent glass display stand.

Everyone gathered around, waiting to admire the beauty of “The Heart of the Kingdom’.

But the moment the glass display case fully emerged,

Someone screamed, “The Heart of the Kingdom is gone!”

The room instantly fell into chaos.

“It’s really gone, what happened, was it stolen?”

“But everyone here today had to go through identity and fingerprint verification. If ‘The Heart of the Kingdom was stolen today, then it must have been taken by someone here.’”

The host was in total panic.

Soon, the security manager of the exhibition room arrived.

Suddenly, a group of security guards appeared outside the exhibition room.

The manager walked in and said, “The Heart of the Kingdom’ being stolen is a big deal. We are currently investigating. We hope for everyone’s cooperation and apologize for any inconvenience caused”

Someone in the crowd loudly said.

“This thief is bold, daring to steal such a valuable item. We have to find out or everyone here is a suspect”

What these nobles cared about the most was their reputation.

Now being pointed as possible theft suspects, naturally, they could not bear it.

So everyone cooperated with the investigation.

Someone whispered, “Who do you think stole it? This is too bold, daring to steal such a valuable item.”

“The Heart of the Kingdom is worth 14 million dollars, and now it’s priceless. If found, with such a large amount, the thief will spend the rest of his life in prison.”

After a while

The manager walked in and said, “We have reviewed the surveillance footage. We can confirm that the necklace was in the display case three hours ago. And within these three hours, only two people who are present here appeared at the door of the exhibition room.”

The crowd was excited again, everyone was looking at each other.

The security manager’s words meant that the suspect could be one of the two, or they might have committed the crime together.

Someone couldn’t take it anymore, “Who is it? Who had the guts to steal The Heart of the Kingdom?”

The manager’s gaze swept over the crowd, then he coldly said, “It’s Mamie and Agnes

Chapter 248

Suddenly, the whole venue went dead silent.

Everyone was staring in shock at the two women in the middle of the room.

These two women were familiar faces to everyone.

One was a top-tier actress, the object of everyone’s attention with an immense reputation.

The other, although a newcomer in the entertainment industry, was already immensely popular. She was also the lady of the Tim Group.

There were plenty of gossips surrounding these two women.

They all involved one man – Jared, the CEO of the Tim Group.

There were rumors that Jared was the secret boyfriend of Mamie, who even proposed to him. But it was later revealed that Jared was already married, and his wife was none other than Ms. Pritchard who was currently in the room

The relationship between these two women was notonously bad. If the Heart of the Kingdom was stolen, there was no way they could have done it together.

But if it was said that one of them did it, that was even harder to believe

Mamie, an international star known for her arrogance, wouldn't stoop to theft

And Ms. Pritchard, hailing from a prominent family and the lady of the Tim Group with immense wealth, had no reason to risk her reputation for a necklace.

When Mamie and Agnes heard the security manager utter their names, they were both stunned.

Agnes had a bad feeling about this

Mamie, upon hearing her name, stormed out of the crowd, pointing at the manager and said, "How dare you slander me, bring out whoever is in charge here!"

Those present knew about Mamie's temper

The MC hastily apologized, "Ms. Mamie, you are our special guest, we're not suspecting you. But the necklace is missing, and we need to investigate. Could you tell us why you were on the second floor when it's clearly marked as off-limits?"

Mamie turned around, sneered," was following Ms. Pritchard up

In an instant, Mamie's words drew all eyes to Agnes.

Agnes felt her heart sink.

Her feeling of unease intensified.

The MC also approached, "Ms. Pritchard, why were you on the second floor?"

Agnes answered truthfully, "I was tired and was looking for a rest room"

Agnes hadn't noticed the "no entry" sign, which made her feel even more puzzled.

The MC was at a loss of what to do.

After all, these were two women not to be trifled with.

The manager said, "We're sorry, but to clear your names, please cooperate with us for a check"

It was, essentially, a body search.

Mamie was the first to lose her temper, "Who gave you this power? I don't want to talk to you, don't touch me, or I'll sue this auction house into bankruptcy."

Mamie made it difficult for everyone, while the MC was constantly explaining and persuading.

The crowd began to whisper.

"Why is she so agitated? Did she steal it?"

"Don't you know Mamie's temper? As the most popular star in the industry, being searched in public would be a huge humiliation even if she didn't take anything"

Everyone seemed to be watching a fascinating drama.

Finally, Mamie lost her temper, opened her bag, and dumped everything out, “Look, open your eyes and see, is there any ruby in there?”

Chapter 249

Mamie dumped everything out of her bag onto the floor.

All kinds of expensive cosmetics, including two pieces of jewelry worth five million dollars being auctioned today, were tossed carelessly on the ground.

In the end, she threw her bag on the floor in anger

The bag was sponsored by a top brand, not her personal property. It was encrusted with countless diamonds, worth a fortune.

Her tantrum was surprising to say the least

But indeed, the ruby was not in the bag.

If the ruby was stolen tonight, it must still be in the exhibition hall.

Now, countless people were outside, using infrared to search, but it was no use

The most probable scenario was that the thief hid the ruby on their body

And the two most suspicious people were dressed in evening gowns, without pockets, they couldn't possibly hide the ruby on them.

So, the ruby could only be in their handbags.

No wonder the manager insisted on checking.

Although Mamie had dumped everything out of her bag the manager still carefully checked it himself.

In the end, he reorganized her things and returned the bag to Mamie: “Ms. Mamie, I’m sorry, we’re just following procedures, please understand.”

Of course, Mamie wouldn’t agree: “You’ll be hearing from my lawyer”

Then, the manager finished inspecting Mamie’s bag and went to Agnes: “Ms. Pritchard, I’m sorry, but we also have to check your bag. If you feel uncomfortable doing this in public, we can go to another room”

Agnes didn’t hesitate and passed her bag over.

She didn’t steal any jewelry, so she wasn’t afraid of being checked.

Since Mamie had proven her innocence, if Agnes acted suspiciously, it would only make people suspect her more

Moreover, a few minutes ago, Agnes had just opened her bag to check the time, there was nothing inside.

Agnes wasn’t afraid of being checked either

The security manager took Agnes’s bag and began searching through it

After a moment, his expression suddenly changed, and he pulled out a ruby necklace from the bag. He handed the necklace to Agnes and asked, “Ms. Pritchard, what’s going on?”

The atmosphere in the exhibition hall immediately tensed up and erupted into commotion. Accusations flew, claiming that Agnes, the mistress of the Tim Group, was the thief. People expressed disbelief that such a beautiful woman would resort to theft.

Agnes was bewildered and shocked. She knew she hadn't stolen the ruby, but it was found in her bag.

There was only one plausible explanation: someone had set her up. The only person she could think of who might do this was Mamie.

Mamie had always harbored hatred towards her, and they were the only ones who had been to that place.

Agnes clenched her hands, feeling the weight of the situation. She stared coldly at Mamie, whose expression was complex, neither showing off nor remorseful, but rather displaying a hint of contempt.

Agnes couldn't help but admire Mamie's acting skills, even in this troubling situation.

Agnes said, "I didn't steal the ruby, and I don't know how the ruby ended up in my bag. If you don't believe me, you can call the police and get this thoroughly investigated."

If Agnes didn't do it, she absolutely wouldn't admit it.

The surrounding gossip became more intense.

"I can't believe she's still arguing, isn't the ruby the best evidence?"

"The hundred-year reputation of the Whitfield family is ruined by a woman."

"Look at her arrogant face, as if the whole world owes her something. What an actress, she really knows how to act"

Chapter 250

Being on the receiving end of everyone's blame, that was what it felt like right now.

But Agnes knew, she couldn't show weakness now, or people would think she was guilty.

If someone was trying to frame her, then this was a battle.

And the battle had just begun. She absolutely couldn't throw in the towel.

The manager said, "This is serious, we've already called the police. You should turn yourself in, it might lighten your punishment."

Agnes's voice came out cold and hard, "I've already said, the necklace wasn't stolen by me. Why should I turn myself in? What you should do is investigate properly, to see if someone is setting me up."

After she finished speaking. Agnes's gaze fell on Mamie

Everyone there noticed this little detail.

"Does Ms. Pritchard mean Mamie stole the ruby and put it in her bag to frame her?"

"That's not impossible. Ms. Pritchard is already the lady of the Tim Group, and Mr. Whitfield is extremely fond of her. She wouldn't ruin her reputation for a ruby."

"I heard that Mamie often gives Ms. Pritchard a hard time, and she's always been quite willful, so this might be true."

"Why don't you guys consider that Ms. Pritchard got caught and is trying to pin the blame on Mamie. She's still so young but has already achieved so much success, she must not be a simple person."

Chatter filled the exhibition hall.

Everyone was giving their two cents.

Mamie came up to Agnes with a scoff, “Agnes, I didn’t expect you to be so cunning, accusing me of stealing the ruby. Looks like I didn’t misjudge you, you’ve been fooling everyone”

Agnes didn’t back down, “I never mentioned you. Maybe you should confess before anyone else does.”

Mamie was left speechless.

Just then, a man’s voice came from the crowd, “I took the ruby”

The hall instantly fell silent.

Everyone’s eyes turned towards the source of the voice

It was the CEO of the Tim Group, Jared.

Jared walked forward.

The host rushed up to him, “Mr. Whitfield, what did you just say? You said you took the ruby?”

Jared nonchalantly said, “I am the buyer of the necklace. It’s a Christmas gift for my wife. I put the ruby in her bag to surprise her, but it seems to have caused a misunderstanding”

Everyone was puzzled.

At this time, the person in charge of the jewelry show, the CEO of the Stone Group, Claud Stone, appeared in the crowd.

Claud said, "I can confirm that Mr. Whitfield is the buyer of The Heart of the Kingdom. I have the certificate right here."

Claud brought out the certificate. Everyone saw the price on it and gasped.

It was worth a staggering twenty million dollars.

Mr. Whitfield casually spent twenty million dollars just to prepare a Christmas present for his wife.

With Jared's appearance, public opinion immediately changed.

"So it was all a misunderstanding. Mrs. Whitfield is so lucky, this was actually a surprise from Mr. Whitfield that almost turned into a shock."

"Mrs. Whitfield is truly the luckiest woman in the world. It's really enviable."

Chapter 251

The host's face shifted.

He seemed to sniff something fishy.

But Claud had whipped out the paperwork, so there shouldn't be any room for doubt.

The necklace, "The Heart of the Kingdom, belonged to the Stone Group before it was auctioned off.

And the Stone Group was the high muck-a-muck of the exhibition.

If the big cheese said it was a misunderstanding, then it surely was one.

The host quickly regained his composure and handed “The Heart of the Kingdom” to Jared, saying, “Seems like a mix-up, we owe you, Mrs. Whitfield, an apology. Here’s your necklace, Mr. Whitfield, why don’t you do the honors?”

Jared took the necklace and began to walk slowly towards Agnes. She was clearly puzzled, having no idea what was happening.

Did Jared really buy the necklace for her? It didn’t seem like his style, leaving her with a mind full of questions but no answers in sight.

Amidst everyone’s curious gaze, Jared approached Agnes and positioned himself behind her. With the necklace in hand, he gently placed it around her neck, saying. “Darling. I’m sorry. I wanted to surprise you, but it ended up causing a misunderstanding. My bad.”

Jared’s voice was so tender that it filled the other ladies present with envy. What made this woman so special that she had Mr. Whitfield wrapped around her finger? In that moment, Agnes was deeply moved.

She looked down at the ruby necklace around her neck, her eyes welling up, “Why didn’t you tell me sooner?”

Someone in the crowd shouted, “Kiss, kiss!”

And then almost everyone joined in the chant.

Jared gave a small smile, then cupped Agnes face and planted a deep kiss....

All this was seen by Mamie, her fingers clenched tightly.

Finally, she turned and left.

For the rest of the time, Agnes was showered with envy and praise

She went from being accused of a thief to the most envied woman in the world.

But Agnes didn't see Mamie again.

By the time she left the exhibition, it was already 10 pm.

Agnes had many questions, but didn't know where to start.

When she got into the car, Mamie suddenly appeared.

Her car parked next to Jared's.

Mamie walked over, gave Agnes a disdainful glance, and then the ruby necklace around her neck.

Then she calmly said to Jared, "Jared, we need to talk."

Jared said, "Go ahead."

Mamie said, "Even if we're not lovers, can't I say something? Jared, the more cautious you are, the more it shows there's no basic trust between you two."

Agnes said, "Go ahead, I'll wait for you in the car"

Then Jared and Mamie left.

But Agnes got out of the car and followed them as soon as they turned their backs.

She still found tonight's event a bit off.

She knew eavesdropping was wrong, but she followed them anyway.

Mamie and Jared stopped in a garden outside the exhibition hall.

There was a big rock in the garden.

To avoid making any noise, Agnes took off her heels.

She tiptoed behind the rock barefoot.

She clearly heard Mamie's voice, "What's the deal with the necklace?"

”

Chapter 252

Jared replied nonchalantly, "Is it wrong for me to buy a necklace for my wife?"

Mamie sneered, "The Heart of the Kingdom was auctioned off at Sotheby's three years ago. It went for \$14 million, bought by some mystery bidder. You and I were both there. You might fool others, but do you really think you can pull the wool over my eyes?"

"So what do you think happened?"

"Jared, you've been acting strangely today, especially with Claud being here. His purchase certificate isn't even dry yet, don't you think it's a bit too obvious?" Jared fell silent.

Mamie said, "But I must admit, you've got some guts. I bet you got in touch with the original buyer through Claud, bought the jewel off him for a high price, and quickly signed a new certificate to prove Agnes's innocence. You spent \$20 million on a \$14 million necklace, just to get Agnes out of a tight spot. You knew that if Agnes was taken away, no matter what happened next, everyone would think she was guilty. The best way to smooth things over was to make Agnes the owner of the necklace, but Jared, spending \$10 million to protect a thief? Do you have a conscience?"

Jared answered coldly. "Agnes could never be a thief. I'll get to the bottom of this."

Mamie challenged, “On what grounds do you believe she’s not a thief? The necklace was found in her bag

“She has no reason to do this, she’s not greedy for wealth.”

Mamie laughed, “She has every reason to do this. Not for the value of the necklace, but to frame me.”

Jared insisted, “Agnes is not that kind of person.”

“Mamie, you saw it with your own eyes. When you arrived, everyone was discussing it. Almost everyone thought I was arrogant, that I framed Agnes. She stole the necklace and made sure she was caught, then blamed me. Jared, she’s not as simple as you think.”

I believe Agnes wouldn’t do this.”

“Mamie, then what’s the truth? When it was time to search her, she was so calm, even handing over her bag voluntarily. Would a normal person react that way? Everything was premeditated”

Jared said calmly, “You’re mistaken. She doesn’t have the capability to do this. I’ll investigate and give you an explanation.”

An angry Mamie retorted, “You’ve all been fooled by her Jared, I thought you were a calm and wise man. Why have you suddenly become so ignorant about this? What has she done to make you all serve her? Fine, I’ll wait. If wait for you to investigate and give me an explanation. If you can’t find out, I won’t let her off. fm not a pushover. Don’t blame me for being ruthless to your wife then

Mamie stormed off in her high heels, while Agnes chose to stay where she was. As she stood there, her heart slowly grew cold and numb.

It became apparent to Agnes that the necklace she received wasn't a pre planned gift from Jared, instead, it seemed like a last-minute "emergency" solution.

What bothered her even more was that Jared hadn't come clean about it. He hadn't mentioned anything about the necklace, not even an hour after they left the showroom. Agnes had been overjoyed by the surprise, but now it all felt like a deception.

Questions swirled in her mind. Why did Jared feel the need to resort to this emergency solution? Was it to "prove" her innocence in some way, or was he afraid that Mamie would be wrongly accused?

Chapter 253

Agnes wasn't daydreaming.

She's been listening to their conversation all this time.

In their chat, Jared never considered another possibility.

That Mamie might be setting her up.

Jared said he'd get to the bottom of it and give Mamie an explanation.

Why the hell does he owe Mamie an explanation?

Agnes is the one being victimized here.

It's most likely that Mamie set her up, so why is he still explaining things to her?

Jared insisted that he trusts Agnes's integrity, but his only evidence in her favor is that "Agnes isn't capable of pulling something like this off."

He bought that necklace and kept it secret, which means he's still having doubts.

He's doubting if she really did steal, if she tainted the Whitfield family's reputation, and if she set up Mamie.

Otherwise, he could've just launched a thorough investigation and made the results public.

Because he doesn't fully trust Agnes, he'd rather shell out 20 million bucks to keep the peace!

Should Agnes feel happy or sad about Jared's willingness to foot the bill for her without hesitation?

Agnes's mood was sinking, feeling like a wave of sadness was washing over her.

Agnes stood there for a while.

Soon after, her phone rang.

It was Jared calling.

Agnes suddenly didn't want to pick up.

Because Agnes didn't know what to say.

Should she confront him?

Agnes suddenly felt a little scared.

Before, Jared had always protected her in front of Mamie

But then, Mamie was just being a brat, obviously bullying her

Jared was like a hero defending the weak

But that didn't involve the fundamental trust.

Now, Agnes was having doubts.

If he had to choose between Mamie and her, who would Jared choose?

Would he choose to trust Mamie without hesitation?

Actually, she already saw Jared's answer just now

All this time, Agnes overlooked that Jared and Mamie have been best buds since they were kids.

Even if they don't have romantic feelings anymore, the understanding and trust between them still exists.

Maybe, is Mamie using this?

The phone rang again, Agnes hesitated whether to answer it or not.

But the phone screen suddenly went black.

The phone ran out of juice

Agnes finally breathed a sigh of relief.

This spared her from making a decision.

When Agnes returned to the parking lot, Jared's car was already gone.

It was late into the night, and Agnes had no idea what time it was

Dressed in her formal attire, Agnes aimlessly wandered the streets.

Thankfully it was late at night and the streets were deserted.

Otherwise, she would've drawn a lot of weird looks

Agnes didn't know how long she walked, finally she sat down at the edge of a flower bed

Agnes felt lost, unable to describe her feelings

"You're really gutsy, walking around at night with such an expensive necklace on."

Suddenly, a male voice floated down from above.

Agnes looked up and saw it was Ivan.

Agnes was a bit surprised: "What are you doing here?"

Agnes looked around and realized she had unwittingly walked to the Century Building

Agnes forced a smile: “What a coincidence.”

Ivan’s voice was gentle and inviting: “Get in the car, I’ll drive you home.”

Chapter 254

Agnes Pritchard frowned, “I don’t want to go back.”

Ivan shrugged off his coat and draped it over Agnes’ shoulders, “Whatever’s going on, get in the car first. It’s bloody cold out here.”

It was mid-winter, and the chill was biting.

Agnes was only dressed in an evening gown. Her face was flushed from the cold, but she didn’t feel it at all.

Once in the car, Ivan asked, “Where to?”

Where to?

Agnes felt lost. Where should she go?

Ivan said, “Forget it, let’s grab a bite first.”

Ivan took her to a small diner by the street.

It was tucked away in a nondescript neighborhood that most people would never find, but it had a cozy and quiet atmosphere.

The fried potato balls from this place were crispy and irresistible

Agnes didn’t have much of an appetite, but she still managed to eat half of a serving of steaming hot potato balls.

After eating, she felt somewhat rejuvenated.

“What the hell happened? Weren’t you at the auction dinner tonight? The necklace you’re wearing, isn’t that Kingdom Heart? I thought it wasn’t up for auction?”

Ivan knew her schedule like the back of his hand, since he was the one who arranged it all.

Agnes was at a loss.

There were things she didn't want to talk about

After all, Ivan was Mamie's brother.

Whether Mamie had set her up or not, she didn't want to stir up trouble between them without proof.

Agnes said, "Don't ask, I don't want to talk about it for now"

Ivan poured Agnes a cup of hot milk, "If you don't want to tell me, that's fine But you cant just not go home. Jared Whitfield has been looking for you everywhere

He's beside himself."

Agnes frowned.

How did he know that Jared was looking for her?

So they had been in touch before Ivan showed up?

Agnes felt a little uneasy.

Sure enough, as soon as Ivan finished speaking, Jared appeared at the door

Agnes was speechless, she just shot Ivan a glare.

Ivan chuckled, "I couldn't just leave you out here, so I called Jared to come get you. Whatever issues you guys have, sort them out."

With that, he got up, grabbed his car keys and left.

At the door he patted Jared on the shoulder, "Talk it out."

And with that, Ivan was gone.

Jared stood at the door for a moment, then walked in, expressionless

Agnes averted her eyes, silent.

“Why didn’t you wait for me?” Jared asked in a deep voice.

“Because I was curious about what Mamie had to say to you.”

So, you overheard our conversation in the garden?*

Agnes turned back to look him in the eye, “Yes, I did.”

Jared was silent for a moment, then asked, “if that’s the case, why are you angry? I never doubted that you stole the necklace.”

Agnes retorted sarcastically, “Yeah, because I’m not that capable”

Jared frowned, “You’re angry just because of that?”

Agnes shot back, Jared, if I told you that Mamie put the necklace in my bag to frarerne, would you believe me?”

Chapter 255

Jared didn’t hesitate: “I know what Mamie is like. Although she can be a bit bossy and stubborn at times, she wouldn’t do something as low as this.”

Agnes suddenly laughed.

Just as she thought, Jared chose to believe Mamie without a second thought.

She didn’t need to ask any more questions.

She didn’t have any solid proof that Mamie had set her up.

But the reason Jared trusted Mamie was because he knew her. He believed she hadn’t stolen the necklace because “she didn’t have the guts”,

Agnes took off the necklace from around her neck and handed it to Jared “This thing is too precious, I can’t accept it.”

Jared's face turned cold: "What are you doing? I bought it for you. If I don't give it to you, who the hell should I give it to?"

"Whoever you want to give it to."

Jared looked at Agnes quietly, then said coldly: "Fine."

On the way home, they both remained silent.

Agnes didn't know what Jared was thinking.

And she didn't want to know.

Jared said he would investigate, so she would wait for his investigation.

When they got home, Agnes went straight to the guest room.

In the days that followed, Agnes was swamped with work and had little to rest

Even though she and Jared lived under the same roof, they hardly saw each other.

And when they did, they didn't chat

On Christmas Day, "The Magical Romance of Cinderella", starring Agnes and Justin, premiered.

The show's ratings skyrocketed on the first day, reaching the highest in its time slot.

The unique magical theme combined with a young idol drama setting and Justin's popularity immediately caused a huge stir

The next morning. Agnes woke up to find her name all over the news headlines.

This was what they called instant fame.

The popularity of “The Magical Romance of Cinderella” severely disrupted Agnes’ life

Every time she went to school, she was mobbed by fans.

Even in the quietest library, crowds of people nearly caused chaos just to catch a glimpse of her.

Adding to the fact that she would run into reporters everywhere, Agnes could hardly go to school anymore.

Luckily, all her classes had ended and she only needed to finish writing her thesis

Agnes had no choice but to take a two-month leave of absence, in the hope that her life would return to normal once the buzz around the show had died down.

During those days, she was constantly busy with press conferences, commercial events, and interviews.

Sometimes, Agnes didn’t go home for a week, staying in an apartment arranged by the company.

Jared called her every day, but they only talked briefly

At some point, Agnes felt a rift growing between them,

This rift had always been there, but they had chosen to ignore it in the past.

This rift was caused by their hasty marriage...

Looking back, she realized she hadn’t even known this man for a full year.

After attending a grand opening ceremony, Agnes returned to Century Building.

Ivan, who also attended the event, was the owner of Century Building and Agnes' temporary agent, with all her work arrangements made by him.

By the time she got back, Agnes was completely worn out. In the dressing room, she quietly removed her makeup alone.

Ivan walked in, holding a paper bag "I noticed you didn't have dinner tonight, so I bought you a burger and fries."

Agnes was surprised. "You left the car first, just to buy me dinner?"

Ivan smiled gently I know you've been upset recently, but you still need to eat well

Chapter 256

Agnes took the food.

"Thanks, Ivan."

Ivan plonked himself on the single-seater next to her.

"I don't know what went down between you and Jared, but I heard he's been feeling pretty rotten too. I ran into his secretary today. Leo said things are getting really tense at the Tim Group, all the bigwigs are on edge. Apparently, Jared's been piling on the pressure in meetings, they're all close to cracking."

At the mention of Jared, Agnes felt a pang in her heart.

Ivan sighed, "Jared doesn't usually let his emotions show. If he's like this now, I reckon he must be really upset but doesn't know how to vent. What really happened between you two?"

Agnes didn't really know either.

She had been waiting for an answer these days.

Jared had said he would get to the bottom of the necklace issue, but he hadn't given any feedback yet.

Agnes thought about it and realized there were only two possibilities.

Either Jared hadn't found any leads yet, or he had found out that this had something to do with Mamie

His silence might just be him trying to protect Mamie.

Agnes suddenly blurted out, "I have a question for you."

Ivan calmly responded, "Shoot"

"If someone helped you unconditionally when you were wrongly accused, but they didn't fully believe in you, would you be pissed off?"

Ivan answered, "If I were wrongly accused, I'd do everything I could to clear my name wouldn't give anyone the chance to doubt me."

Agnes froze after hearing this.

Ivan continued, "You're talking about the necklace thing, right? Jared told me, it's all pretty weird. The auction house staff, the emcee, even the security manager, they all vanished. Jared's already announced that he's the buyer of the gemstone, so he can't investigate publicly, otherwise, it'll stir up more trouble."

So Ivan knew too. Agnes hung her head

Ivan fell silent for a moment, "I know you suspect Mamie. Agnes, I'm not defending my sister. If she really did this, I'll make sure she will get punished. But I raised Mamie and I

feel responsible for how she's turned out. I spoilt her, made her arrogant and rude. But that's because you don't know what we went through as kids. When she was bullied, she had to put on a tough exterior, make the world afraid of her. She may be a bully on the surface, but she's not bad. She might slap someone in the face, but she'd never scheme behind their back. Agnes, if you trust me, please give her the benefit of the doubt just this once. There might be more to it than meets the eye"

Agnes wavered, she said, "I won't blame anyone without evidence, don't worry."

Ivan was Mamie's brother. Agnes couldn't blame him for what he had said, she could even understand his predicament as brother.

But when similar words came out of Jared's mouth, all Agnes felt was an unnamed anger building up in her heart, unable to dissipate.

That was why their relationship had grown cold these days.

Agnes really didn't understand why

That night, Agnes called Kerri Bradford and spilled the beans about everything.

After listening. Kerr coolly said, "You're clearly jealous. But Mr. Whitfield's behavior is indeed out of line. If I were in your shoes, I'd be ticked off too."

Chapter 257

T

The word jealousy' exploded in Agnes' mind, it was like a light bulb moment.

Agnes had always thought it was Jared's distrust that caused her pain.

But it wasn't that Jared didn't trust her, it was just that his trust in her wasn't as unconditional as it was with Mamie

His trust in her came with conditions.

Jared thought she lacked the capability, the guts, but his attitude towards Mamie was different.

His trust in Mamie was as unconditional as his trust in Ivan, it was based on mutual understanding and rapport.

That made Agnes feel even more miserable

Agnes didn't really care if Mamie had actually framed her.

What she cared about was Jared's unconditional understanding and trust in Mamie

In the end, she was simply jealous.

Yes, very jealous.

After hanging up the phone, Agnes lay in bed staring at the ceiling

So what if she was jealous?

It was something she couldn't change.

It was the accumulation of their years of feelings.

Agnes buried her head in the quilt, feeling so upset that she wanted to cry

The next day. Agnes went to the company

At nine in the morning, she was to be interviewed by an entertainment show.

After Agnes got into the elevator, the door was about to close when a guy wearing a baseball cap and carrying a toolbox walked in.

The elevator at Century Building could only be used by company staff and required a staff card to operate.

Century Entertainment was an entertainment company with many celebrities, so strict restrictions were put in place to prevent harassment by journalists and fans.

The guy got into the elevator and stood still in the corner.

Agnes found it a bit odd and asked, “Where’s your card? You need to swipe it to select your floor”

The guy’s voice was low, “Could you press the 26th floor for me? I’m here to fix some pipes”

The 26th floor housed the artist studios, Agnes was heading there as well.

Today’s interview was special. The show interviewing Agnes was called ‘Celebrity Family’ which focused on the daily lives and personal relationships of celebrities. At nine o’clock, Agnes arrived on time with her make-up done.

When she entered the interview room, she was taken aback.

Sitting in the guest seat was Jared.

When Ivan had arranged the work, Agnes had thought it was just a small interview and had no idea Jared would be there.

The press was taking pictures of Jared. Jared was indifferent, just casually reading the interview script, and chatting with the host.

Seeing Agnes come in, he stood up and naturally walked towards her

In fact, the moment Agnes saw Jared, she understood.

It was definitely Ivan’s hope that through this interview, she could have a chance to have a good chat with Jared

Agnes knew she had avoided facing him, but now she had nowhere else to run.

Agnes started off the conversation with, “Why are you here?”

Jared had a slight smile on his face, but his voice was low, “Mrs. Whitfield, you haven’t been home for half a month, why do you think I’m here?”

That’s right, Agnes hadn’t been home for half a month. Ivan had arranged an apartment for her at the company to rest in, and Agnes simply moved her luggage

there

Jared's voice had a hint of coldness, but there was a slight smile on his face.

The others couldn't hear what they were saying and thought they were whispering sweet nothings.

"I'm working"

"Okay, then I'll accompany you at work today"

Chapter 258

At this point, a staff member chimed in, "Mr. Whitfield, Ms. Pritchard, let's get this show on the road."

Agnes and Jared took their seats.

Today's interview was a bit out of the ordinary, less of a formal interview and more of a casual chitchat. Even the seating arrangement was a cozy loveseat

The host sat off to the side, turned to the camera and began, "Hey folks, today we've got the pleasure of hanging out with Ms. Pritchard and Mr. Whitfield, who are quite the power couple. Mr. Whitfield, you splurged on a super pricey ruby necklace as a Christmas present for Ms. Pritchard a couple of weeks ago. Ms. Pritchard, how did you feel when you got such an extravagant gift?"

Upon hearing the host mention the Kingdom Heart, Agnes felt a pang in her heart.

But she was on live TV, so she had to put on a happy face, "The gift was indeed extraordinary, and I was utterly surprised"

The host turned to Jared, "Mr. Whitfield, why did you decide to go all out with such an extravagant necklace? Does this gift carry any special meaning?"

Jared responded coolly, “Nothing particularly meaningful. I just thought it would look beautiful on my wife.”

Agnes shot Jared a glance.

That man was always so casual when he lied

The host’s voice was filled with envy, “We’ve all heard that Mr. Whitfield absolutely dotes on his wife, and it’s clear to see that today. What was the scene like when Mr. Whitfield and Ms. Pritchard first met? Any fun stories to share?”

At this, a blush crept up Agnes cheeks.

Their first meeting was not something she wanted to share in public.

Jared chimed in, “I fell for my wife at first sight. The moment we met, I was totally smitten.”

Jared seemed casual, but when he said “smitten” he glanced at Agnes

Agnes could clearly see a hint of provocation in his expression.

Agnes immediately understood what he meant by “smitten”.

Usually, Jared loved to joke that she “raped” him at their first meeting

Now, he was implying the same!

Agnes felt her face and ears turn red.

The host seemed to pick up on the detail, “Is Ms. Pritchard blushing? It seems like your first meeting must’ve been quite a hoot.”

The host went on with more questions, most of which were answered by Jared.

He spoke at a leisurely pace, each response brimming with wit and wisdom. Agnes felt as if she didn't recognize him.

Usually, he didn't talk much, but that could be the result of years of business experience.

As a top businessman, he definitely knew how to put on a show

The interview went super smoothly. The host was completely smitten by Jared's charm and even admitted that she wished she could find a boyfriend like him. At the end of the show, the host asked, "Mr. Whitfield, is there anything you'd like to say to Mrs. Whitfield?"

Jared turned to Agnes, looked into her eyes, and said earnestly, "Darling, I'm sorry. There have been times when I haven't considered your feelings, but that doesn't mean I don't trust you. You're the closest person to me in this world, and even if everyone else didn't believe in you, I wouldn't hesitate. Where there's light, there's shadow, but I want you to remain pure and beautiful always, and I'm willing to shield you from all the shadows. I just want you to be happy. If I've hurt you in any way, I hope you can forgive me, because I truly love you so much."

Chapter 259

Jared's words came completely out of the blue.

Others might not have understood, but Agnes totally did.

He explained about the necklace thing. He had bought the Kingdom Heart without telling her, just to surprise her, and he was willing to bear all the whispers and plots behind the surprise.

Agnes hadn't seen it coming. She'd been blaming him all this time!

Her eyes were instantly moist.

The host was also taken aback, “Seems like there’s some story between you two.

Mr. Whitfield rarely gave interviews to the media, especially from the entertainment press

They had tentatively approached Mr. Whitfield for this interview because they were interviewing Ms. Pritchard. To their surprise, Mr. Whitfield had agreed without a second thought

Now it seemed that Mr. Whitfield just wanted to use this chance to apologize to his wife.

Jared’s heartfelt apology had clearly moved Ms. Pritchard. The ratings for this episode were sure to skyrocket.

The host was more than willing to play mediator, “Ms. Pritchard, is there anything you’d like to say to Mr. Whitfield?”

Agnes hung her head, tears streaming down her face.

Jared handed her a tissue, ‘Baby, no more tears, I’ll let you call the shots tonight.’”

Jared’s voice was so low that only Agnes could hear him, even the host didn’t catch it.

That man was always so cheeky no matter what the occasion!

Agnes, flustered and angry, grabbed his arm and bit it.

The host got anxious, “Ms. Pritchard, you can’t bite people!”

But Jared just smiled, even affectionately ruffled Agnes hair, “It’s okay, I’m used to it, as long as she’s happy”

She immediately let go of Jared, and angrily retorted, “When did I ever bite you?”

“You probably don’t remember. Next time I’ll keep evidence to show you”

Having been with Jared for a while, she instantly knew that what Jared was referring to was not a good memory

Agnes blushed again and punched Jared in the shoulder.

The host watched their banter and chuckled, “It’s clear that Ms. Pritchard has given us her answer. That concludes today’s interview. We thank Mr. Whitfield and Mrs. Whitfield for joining us.”

At the beginning of the interview, the host was a little apprehensive. Mr. Whitfield was a master of deflection, unwilling to reveal anything about his private life that the audience would be interested in.

The host had initially thought the interview might be a bit bland. But the final scene was truly spectacular, and Ms. Pritchard’s performance was naturally charming

After the host announced the end of the interview, everyone started packing up.

Then, just as a few people were about to leave, a reporter from ‘Celebrity Family’ suddenly rushed over and announced, “Breaking news! Mamie’s being held hostage on the rooftop, the guy’s threatening her to jump off the building with him.

Chapter 260

Everyone’s face turned white when they heard the news.

A swarm of reporters bolted out with their cameras instantly.

Jared, with a stern expression on his face, said, “I’m going to check it out.”

Agnes, equally shocked, quickly added, “Me too.”

Three minutes later, everyone had flocked to the rooftop of the Century Building. The place was already jam-packed with people.

Agnes overheard someone nearby ask, “What happened?”

Someone answered, “Some crazy fan of Mamie busted into her dressing room and proposed to her. When she humiliated him, he went ballistic, took Mamie hostage and is now threatening to jump off the building with her

“That’s terrifying! Mamie is too popular for her own good. Some fan proposed to her at a film festival, and another creep hid under her hotel bed.”

“How the hell did this criminal get past the Century Building’s tight security?”

Jared pushed through the crowd to the front, Agnes trailing behind him.

When Agnes got a clear view of the scene, she was petrified.

Mamie was being choked, standing on the unprotected edge of the rooftop.

A crowd of security guards surrounded them.

The criminal waved a gun around and screamed at the crowd, “Nobody move! If anyone takes one more step, we’re jumping””

Recognizing the criminal’s face, Agnes was taken aback.

The guy was decked out in work clothes, which seemed oddly familiar to her.

Turned out he was the “plumber” who had been headed to the 26th floor that morning!

What the hell?

The rooftop was a mess, but everyone was too scared to make a move.

Everyone was whispering. The boss isn't here today. He'll lose his mind when he hears Mamie's been taken hostage"

"This is definitely gonna be front-page news tomorrow, but will it be entertainment or crime?"

"I think he's just bluffing. Mamie should be fine."

Despite being held hostage, Mamie was defiant and fought back, "You lunatic! If you want to die, go ahead. But you're not dragging me down with you. You'd better let me go now, or rl make sure you rot in jail for the rest of your life."

He seemed very agitated, "Mamie, I love you so much. Why won't you marry me? Just say yes and I'll let you go. No one loves you more than I do."

Mamie's voice was filled with disgust and disdain, "Marry you? There are plenty of guys who want to marry me. Should I say yes to all of them? You better let me go, or I'll make sure you never see the light of day again."

"What's the point of sunlight if I can't have you? Mamie, you're my sunshine. I've watched your movies over and over. I know every line. My favorite is from 'Geisha', I've always wanted to be cherished, properly placed, well-preserved, free from fear, suffering, wandering, and loneliness! I've watched that scene countless times. Your tears were like the moon in the sky. The more I watched, the more I felt like you were talking to me. So, I proposed. If you marry me, we'll be happy. Please, will you marry me?"