

Chapter 901

Linda frowned at Rachel's words. She didn't know anything about the underground warehouse. Wanting to defend the Murphy Corporation, Linda opened her mouth, but she couldn't think of anything to say because she witnessed all these before her eyes.

On the other hand, I remained silent before saying, "These are all larger-sized equipment. Are those that launched overseas smaller ones?"

Rachel rolled her eyes and pursed her lips while speaking in a disdainful manner. "Well, duh!"

Even so, I thought little about it and turned to Ashton. "What should we do now?"

The man scanned the items in the underground warehouse and made a decision. "Contact the reporters and lawyers. We'll have to file a lawsuit against the Murphy Corporation." Giving a cold look, he was emotionless when he said that.

Upon hearing his words, Linda started panicking. She stopped Ashton and tried to reason with him. "Mr. Fuller, aren't you burning the bridge? Mr. Murphy is still locked up in Moranta. Shouldn't you at least give him a chance to explain? This is way too sudden, and I believe Mr. Murphy doesn't know about this. The architects and engineers were in charge of

the construction, while he never took part. Maybe he was in the dark all along.”

I pursed my lips. If I didn't go through the life-and-death situation in Moranta, I wouldn't even know that Armond was a two-faced person or suspect that he was behind this. However, now that I knew what kind of person he was, I believed he had planned this for a long time.

At that moment, I was wondering if he was also behind my participation in the Fuller Corporation's bidding. It would make sense if he had probably planned everything from the start. After all, the Murphy Corporation had been dominating the AI technology field, and it wasn't a desirable outcome for them if Fuller Corporation's AI technology rose to fame.

The man wanted to use this chance to gain benefit from the Fuller Corporation's downfall. He was playing the long game.

Recalling the time I almost got into trouble in A City, my trust toward Armond was broken. To delay time, he even laid his hands on me and set Nora up. This man was way more scheming than we thought.

I said, “Linda, let's leave that to the police, okay?” Everything that happened after I met Armond surfaced in my mind, and instantly, I felt the temperature dropped a few degrees.

The woman looked at me and stayed silent for a while. "Let me call old Mr. Murphy. This matter involves the entire Murphy family, so I have to inform him about this. I'm sorry, Scarlett, but the Murphys mean a lot to me."

I nodded. "Alright. Go ahead."

At the same time, the Murphys were in a frenzy at the moment. Hence, when Robert picked up the call, he directly asked Linda to handle the situation on-site. "I'll leave it to you. Just try to minimize Murphy Corporation's loss."

Upon hearing his commands, Linda was stunned. Then, she nodded and said, "Okay."

After hanging up, Linda looked miserable. She then glanced at me with a troubled expression. "Scarlett, tell me. What happened to the Murphys?"

I figured she didn't know about the incident in Moranta. It was a lot, so I collected my thoughts before telling her. "The gas released from the chemical factory under the Murphy family in Moranta was carcinogenic, and Armond was involved in a murder case. That was why he couldn't return to A City to take care of these matters. Furthermore, the police officers were now investigating the Murphys' property, so old Mr. Murphy had his hands full with that, and he could only leave this to you."

Linda was rather intelligent, so she knew someone was behind this. "Is the Fuller Corporation involved with the incident in Moranta?"

I didn't intend to hide it. "The Murphy family wanted the import and export trading rights, but the Taylor family had passed the rights to Ashton. Armond then kidnapped Ashton and forced him to give it up. However, he failed, and the police officers are running an investigation on him."

Upon hearing my words, Linda's face was as pale as a sheet. Knitting her brows, she was at a loss for words.

Rachel glanced at Ashton with concern and turned to Linda. "It seems the Murphy Corporation doesn't have boundaries as long as it makes them money."

Hearing that, Linda stayed silent. After a long while, she looked at Ashton and said, "Mr. Fuller, I know I can't hinder your decision, but I'll do my best to protect Murphy Corporation's project in A City."

Ashton glanced at her before turning to Rachel. "Contact the reporters and lawyers."

With that, he led me out of the base, and we walked all the way to his car.

In the car, I kept quiet for a long time. However, I failed to suppress my curiosity and blurted out, "Ashton, did you know there was an underground warehouse before?"

Although Rachel said that the back wall was damaged by accident because of the malfunction of the machines. However, Armond had made the area

behind the base off-limits to anyone else. No one would drive the excavator to the back unless someone actually planned to enter from the back.

The man continued driving and kept his eyes on the road as he smiled. “I knew it ever since you told me there was something wrong with the structure.”

I pursed my lips. “Then why did you only expose it now?”

Upon that, he glanced sideways at me and explained, “If I expose him back then, he’ll only change his plans to oppose me. I needed time to find his flaws, so I went along with it. With this, I’ll know what he was going for.”

Chapter 902

Seeing how he was looking at me while driving, I yelled, “Eyes on the road!”

After pausing for a bit, I continued, “You knew that Armond was going to set you up in Moranta. That was why you wanted to come back as soon as possible when you heard that he was heading there.”

The man nodded. “But I never expect him to take action so quickly.”

No wonder Armond was completely unbothered when he was making a bet with Abe in the casino. He knew the latter wasn't his opponent. Thinking about Abe, I couldn't help but ask, "Do you think that Abe's really dead?"

The man pursed his lips. "According to the police report in Moranta, the corpse's DNA matches with Abe's."

I was stunned by his words. "Armond actually killed Abe?"

It was way too sudden. I initially thought that Armond faked Abe's death with a corpse to confuse us. However, I was too naïve. He actually killed his partner.

Ashton parked the car as soon as we reached the villa. Since we hadn't been there for some time, Ashton hired a helper to clean the house. Right when we got off the car, the helper was done with the chores and was about to leave.

When she saw us, she looked at Ashton and reported, "Mr. Fuller, a tall and muscular man came and looked for a woman called Scarlett. He asked me to relay this message to you guys: Be careful."

He's looking for me?

I stopped the helper from leaving and asked her about the man's features. After a series of questioning, I couldn't think of a person I knew who matched her description, so I let her leave.

Then, I went to the living room and sat on the couch, thinking of the man the helper described earlier. Ashton looked at me and said, "Now that Abe's subordinates know that he's dead, they might be misguided by Armond and come looking for trouble. So from now on, you'll have to report to me whenever you leave the house."

I nodded, as I knew how dangerous it would be.

Suddenly, a man's name came to my mind after I heard him mentioning Abe's subordinates. My body trembled in shock as I sat upright and looked at Ashton. "I know who that man is now. He's Danny, one of Abe's subordinates. I helped him in Venria before. When he followed Abe back to the country, I gave him my contact number and address in case he needed my help. However, I forgot about this after I returned to K City."

With these thoughts in my mind, I immediately called Nora. She answered after a while, and her voice was hoarse. "What's wrong, Scarlett?"

Hearing her voice, I was concerned. "Where are you? Why is your voice so hoarse?"

She answered weakly, "I'm in Moranta at the moment. For some reason, I couldn't get hold of Armond, and you guys were already back in K City. I

miss him so much, so I came to see him. I'd just arrived and didn't have any sleep last night, so I'm at the hotel trying to catch some sleep. What's wrong?"

I froze for a while as I was shocked at what the woman told me. "You're saying that you go there by yourself without knowing where he is staying? Do you know how dangerous it is?"

Realization dawned on her, and she was stunned for a while. "Oh yeah, I was just about to ask you. You guys stayed in Moranta for such a long time, so you know where he's staying, right? Can you send me the address later?"

I pursed my lips as I didn't know how to tell her about the incident in Moranta. "Do you believe me if I tell you we don't?"

She replied, "Hmm... Yeah, but it's so frustrating, knowing that I have to look for a needle in a haystack."

After pondering for a while, I said, "Nora, just think of it as going on a vacation in Moranta. Maybe Armond didn't contact you because he was busy. There are a lot of things going on with Murphy Corporation recently, so I think he doesn't have time to meet you. Anyway, you should return as soon as possible. It's dangerous to be alone over there."

However, the woman was stubborn. "I know he's busy, so I'm here to see him. Just for a bit, and I'll go back. Oh, right! Why did you call?"

I replied, "Oh, I wanted to ask if a tall and muscular man come to find you these days." Before I left A City, I reminded her to help Danny if he came to look for her.

She said, "Nope. No one came to see me recently."

I figured Danny had followed Abe to Moranta, so I nodded and reminded her, "Don't stay in Moranta for too long. I'll give you a number, and just in case you need help, you can call this number. Don't wander around there and always be careful."

Nora hummed in reply and hung up after that. After a while, I sent her Holden's number and texted Holden, asking him to take care of her.

Moranta's security wasn't that good, so at least Holden could help her if she got into trouble.

After that, Ashton went to the study on the second floor, while I went to my bedroom. It was at this moment when I realized that Renee had given me Sasha's journal when I was at the hospital.

Chapter 903

I wanted to read the journal, but I couldn't find it anywhere. Right when I was scratching my head in frustration, I realized I had left the journal in another bag as I was in a rush when packing my stuff.

Well, I guess there's nothing I can do with that.

Without Armond's participation, the lawsuit went on smoothly, while the cooperation between the Fuller Corporation and the Murphy Corporation could only be called off. Besides, the product launch was delayed, and it had affected the Fuller Corporation's profits.

Rachel had paid a lot of effort on the project, so she was reluctant for it to end that way. After discussing with Ashton, he agreed to hold a public tender in A City to look for a new business partner.

On the other hand, I had nothing to work on at the Murphy Corporation anymore. But because of the public tender, Ashton and I continued to stay in A City for the time being. Meanwhile, Holden called me once and told me that Nora almost got into trouble at the hotel, but he took her to his villa.

When I heard that, I was relieved as that was something to be happy about.

For the following days, Ashton and Rachel were busy with meetings for the new public tender. On the other hand, I was looking for Danny in A City, and it was rather difficult to do so, as he didn't give me his contact number.

What surprised me the most was Tessa contacting me personally. She asked to meet as she had some matters to discuss, but I was reluctant to see her because I had nothing to discuss with her.

However, she was determined to meet me. Bringing up the incident in Venria, she insisted on inviting me out for a talk, so I had to agree.

We agreed to meet at a café. It was November, so the weather in A City was chilly. Tessa wore a stylish orange coat with a green turtleneck. As she was rather chubby, the turtleneck covered her neck and made it seem shorter.

I sat at the seat in front of her. She looked frazzled as if she had been staying up late for a long time. The heavy makeup didn't do her face justice, either. It seemed dirty and made me feel uncomfortable just looking at her face.

"What would you like to drink?" She asked and sized me up.

I answered, "Anything would do."

The woman nodded and fell silent for a while before saying, "Long time no see. You've become prettier."

I was stunned, as I didn't expect to hear compliments coming from her. I looked at her for a while and went straight to the topic. "What do you need from me?"

She shrugged and refused to answer my question. "Why don't we have something to drink first, and we'll talk later? After all, we're friends, so don't treat me like an enemy. Ashton is irresistible, but since I can't make him fall for me, I might as well give up. Besides, it's not worth offending you because of him."

Listening to her words, I knew she was up to something.

After staying silent for a while, I urged, "What do you want me to do? I'll help if I can."

She looked at me and still didn't tell me her intentions. Placing a glass of fruit juice in front of me, she smiled faintly and said, "Here, have a drink. Like I said, we're not enemies, so there's no need to rush."

I didn't know what she was trying to do, so I could only take a sip of the fruit juice. Maybe it was because she had touched the glass that there was an unfamiliar scent coming from the fruit juice. I had heard from Laurel that Tessa had a praying hall in her house, and she would always light sandalwood incense inside it.

The smell of sandalwood always lingered on her body, and that made me feel uncomfortable.

“I heard that Nora went to Moranta. Why is she there?” She brought up Nora suddenly.

I replied indifferently, “I’m not sure.” Since she didn’t want to tell me her intentions, then there was no point in asking. Thus, I put up with her and waited.

As expected, she finally got to the point after talking about a lot of unrelated stuff. “I heard that Mr. Fuller is going to hold a public tender to look for a sponsor for the AI project. Has he found a potential partner already?”

I furrowed my brows slightly. “I know little about this. Plus, he’s preparing to hold a public tender, and this will have to be a fair competition. I can’t help you with anything related to this.”

Hearing that, she chuckled. “There’s no need for your help. I’m just introducing someone to you.” Listening to her words, I got sleepy suddenly.

My eyelids got heavy and were trying to shut themselves uncontrollably. However, I tried to pinch my arm to wake up. The pain inflicted upon my arm made me snap out of my stupor. I looked at the glass of fruit juice and noticed something was off. “What did you make me drink?”

She smiled faintly and said, “Nothing much. It’s just something that will make you... sleepy.”

As soon as I heard that, I immediately got up, trying to leave. However, my body felt weak, and before I could regain my consciousness, I had fallen asleep.

Chapter 904

When I woke up, I initially thought I would be in an abandoned factory, but to my surprise, I was in a room that was tidy and looked as if someone stayed in here before.

I got up from the bed and went to the living room. No one was there, but I heard a woman reciting her prayers in another room.

Heading toward the room, I halted when I was at the entrance. A few statues and books in Sanskrit characters were placed in the smoke-filled room, whereas Tessa was kneeling and putting her hands together as she recited her prayers.

When I saw her, I knew running away was impossible, so I went to the living room and sat on the ground. The apartment was comprised of three rooms and a living room. She stayed in a room, and the other room was used for her prayers and worship, while the third room was for storage.

There was nothing in the living room except for a coffee table, and it didn't even feel like home. Laurel once told me Tessa was in her forties, but she wasn't married and lived alone.

Seeing that the apartment was rather empty, I figured she didn't have a boyfriend and was staying by herself.

After a while, she came out from the worshipping room with prayer beads in her hand and looked at me. "Would you like some tea?" As she spoke, she sat at the coffee table and started boiling a pot of water.

I pursed my lips and asked, "What do you want?"

"Call Ashton and tell him to withdraw his lawsuit against Armond. Then, let Armond return from Moranta." She cut to the chase and took out some tea leaves to brew me some tea.

I pursed my lips and looked at her. "You're doing this for Armond? How surprising! When did you guys get so close?"

She shrugged and wore an indifferent expression. "As the saying goes, money makes the world go round. Mrs. Fuller, you're used to living comfortably, so you won't understand our lives."

I asked, "So, how much did Armond give you?"

The woman looked at me and laughed out suddenly. "Why? Are you going to say that you'll give me double the amount he gave? How great it is to be rich! You guys take care of everything using money."

I pursed my lips and waited to see what she wanted to say next.

After a while, the woman continued, "Forget it. Now that I've done all of this, I have no intention of backing out now. If you don't wish to trouble Ashton, you don't need to call him. However, you'll have to stay here for a few days. Let's see what Ashton will do to find his missing wife."

I was puzzled at how calm and poised she was. Something was odd about how she brought me here directly without leaving any traces.

Hence, I was reluctant to do as she said and was just waiting for the time to pass. The sky was getting dark, and throughout this period of time, she drank some tea and recited her prayers. Meanwhile, I got more and more suspicious of how she remained that calm all the time.

If she just wanted me to call Ashton, she could've resorted to violence or used some extreme measures to force me into doing it. However, she did nothing to me and was just waiting calmly.

"Eat some noodles. Who knows what Ashton would do to me if he heard that you were starved." The woman cooked some instant noodles and

added some vegetables. I didn't have an appetite, so I looked at her indifferently. "When will you let me go?"

She raised a brow at me and asked, "Are you going to call him now?"

I frowned. "I won't do that since Armond deserves to be punished. Ashton can give you the money you want, so there's no need to waste my time like this."

Despite my offer, she continued eating her noodles calmly and smiled faintly before looking at me in the eyes. "As expected of Mrs. Fuller. You're so generous. I'm sorry, but have you heard of being in the same boat? I believe in karma, so even though I dislike Armond for being two-faced, I'll have to help since I have promised him. So, Mrs. Fuller, you only have one choice here."

I pursed my lips as she continued eating her noodles slowly. Annoyance settled itself in my heart as I figured I couldn't negotiate with her.

After hesitating for a moment, I asked, "I'm curious. When did you guys get so close?"

The woman raised her brow and told the truth. "We got to an agreement after returning from Epea."

"Why?" I pressed on the matter while Tessa grew impatient. "I said it before. Money makes the world go round."

I asked, "If that's the case, why won't you take Ashton's money? Is there any difference between getting money from Ashton or Armond?"

The woman raised her eyebrows and said, "There is!"

The sky was getting dark, so I decided to call Ashton. Taking out my phone, I dialed his number, but the call was left unanswered.

I looked at Tessa, but she was just minding her own business. Left without a choice, I continued calling Ashton, yet no one answered.

Chapter 905

Suddenly, I looked at her, puzzled. "We can't make calls from here, can we? You didn't mean for me to call Ashton at all. You were just trying to stall for some time, weren't you?"

Slowly, she lifted her eyes to look at me while raising her eyebrows. She had nearly finished eating her noodles, and the foundation on her face was flaking off. Right then, she looked absolutely hideous. "You're right. Based

on my calculation, it will be over soon. Even as we speak, Ashton should be on the way to pick you up.”

I was upset at her betrayal, but I took a deep breath, knowing that it was useless to rant. Gazing at her, I said, “You have planned it well. It looks like I’ve underestimated you.”

She shrugged and laughed softly. “Don’t be angry. In the future, we’ll have lots of opportunities to compete against each other!”

I nodded, “Yes, but I’d like to remind you to try and get better makeup. After all, you are making money from this. Also, as a woman, I would remind you that it’s okay to take care of yourself. You are not even forty yet, but you look sixty. Do you know why Ashton doesn’t even want to look at you? It’s because your face looks disgusting. It is torturous for any man to spend one day with you, not to mention a whole lifetime. Even for me, just today alone is torturous enough.”

“You...” Her face became more and more hideous by the minute, and she looked at me chillingly, “Scarlett, I should have killed you earlier so that I don’t need to be disgusted by you now.

All women were concerned about their looks no matter what age they were. Hence, naturally, if anyone were to insult them, they would have a meltdown. Tessa was the same.

Watching her hideous face, I said calmly, “Please don’t be angry because I’m just being truthful. Don’t you ever look at yourself in the mirror? You

actually have the money to buy all those branded clothes. So why don't you spend some on skincare products? Oh, besides, you should probably lose some weight, because you really are... hmm, how should I put it... fat and ugly. Most men won't look twice at women like you."

She was so angry that, after finishing her noodles, she tried to throw the bowl at me, which I had fortunately avoided. Infuriated, she then picked up the fruit knife on the table and headed towards me. She seemed to be completely infuriated by my remarks.

Bang! The door was suddenly kicked open. Ashton came in just on time to see Tessa holding up a knife in front of me. He quickly picked up the vase behind the door and aimed right at her head. Upon the impact, Tessa dropped down with the vase onto the floor.

Almost immediately afterward, Ashton embraced me and asked, "Are you okay? Did she injure you?"

I shook my head and noticed that several policemen had followed him in. Some policemen helped Tessa up from the ground and handcuffed her immediately.

Tessa, who was still conscious, glared at the police in disbelief, yelling, "What are you doing? Why are you handcuffing me?"

One of the police officers said, "My apologies, but you are involved in kidnapping with the intention of hurting others. We have the right to detain you!"

“Hah! I didn’t hurt her at all, and she is still unharmed. On what basis did you come to such a conclusion?” Tessa roared while struggling. Obviously, she was very reluctant to leave.

The police spoke with a cold glare, “Just so you know, Miss, attempted murder is a crime. Come with us!”

Before they left, Tessa glared at me and said in disbelief, “Did you plan this? You did this all on purpose, didn’t you? Scarlett, I really underestimated you.”

I looked at her, sank my body into Ashton’s arms, and said, “Tessa, Tessa... I treated you as a friend, so I didn’t expect you to drug me, kidnap me, and then hurt me. This time, I won’t be so merciful to you, and hopefully, you will be punished by the law.”

“You b*tch!” She yelled angrily and was taken away forcibly by the police.

After they left, Ashton and I returned to his car. That man had been cold and sullen the entire time, looking like a kid showing his temper. I knew that he was angry with me for coming out to meet Tessa by myself and almost getting hurt.

We drove for a while as I thought about how to coax him out of his mood. Holding my stomach, I started muttering, “Oh, my stomach hurts so much. I don’t know if it’s because I haven’t eaten for a whole day. Ugh...”

I pretended to be miserable while holding my stomach. Meanwhile, Ashton pursed his lips, and after looking at me, he said, "What would you like to eat?"

"Koandria cuisine!" I said, looking at him with a smile.

He looked at me without saying anything but just drove the car to the city center and got off. I watched him stand beside the car coldly, and with a pitiful voice, I said, "Ashton, I'm hungry. It's been a day, and I was almost scared to death by Tessa just now. I can't walk anymore. Can you give me a hand?"

He frowned and continued to watch my "act." Seeing that I had refused to get down, he compromised a little and came to help.

I pursed my lips slightly and leaned my entire weight on him while looking at him shamelessly. "Can you hold me? I really can't walk!"

Chapter 906

He pursed his lips, "Don't eat, then. We'll go back and get some rest!"

Hearing that, I immediately stood up straight and pouted. "C'mon. Let's go get some food." In just a few steps, I was inside the restaurant and had found us a seat.

He followed suit and looked at me coldly. Ignoring him, I ordered my food and rested my chin on my hand while looking at him. "Are you still angry?"

However, he ignored me.

I instantly understood how he felt, so I stopped talking. After a while, the waiter served our food. Feeling extremely hungry, I was really eager to dig in, but he stopped me. "Drink your soup first!"

At that, he placed a bowl of chicken mushroom soup in front of me. I knew he was afraid that I had been hungry for too long, and if I ate solid food right after that, my stomach would not be able to hold it.

Obediently, I drank the soup before starting to eat. He did not seem to be hungry or picking up his fork. Instead, he just looked at me gently, so I could not help but ask, "Ashton, has Armond been released?"

He pursed his lips and looked at me, “Eat your food and don’t talk with your mouth full!”

As soon as he said that, I kept quiet. After I had finished my meal, I looked at him and spoke, “Today’s incident happened because I was careless. I promise it wouldn’t happen again.”

He looked at me with a helpless gaze. “When have you ever kept such promises?”

Being a little speechless, I pouted and then quibbled, “I didn’t expect her to drug me at the café so blatantly and take me back to her place. I will not be fooled by her again next time.”

“Is there a next time?” He glared at me with a solemn expression.

I shook my head, declaring fearfully, “No, I hope this will never happen again.”

His facial expression improved slightly, and then he looked at me. “Do you understand what you did was wrong?”

I nodded. “Yes, I do!”

“What did you do wrong?”

I spoke like a child owning up, “I was wrong in being too trusting. I was wrong in being so silly. I was wrong for not obeying you!”

He grunted, looked at me and asked, “What else?”

His question had me stunned as I pondered over it and not knowing what else to say. Watching him cautiously, I asked, “What else did I do wrong?”

Unexpectedly, he got up abruptly from his seat and went straight out of the restaurant. I was a little dazed as I followed him, asking, “Ashton, can you quit losing your temper so easily? I really don’t know what’s wrong. Please tell me, so I won’t repeat it next time. Ashton! Why are you doing this?”

Nonetheless, he did not listen to me at all but continued his way out. I followed him for a few steps but realized that I could not catch up with him, so I simply gave up and sat on the steps outside the restaurant, watching him walk away.

After a while, he had probably realized that I was not following him. Thus, he looked back at me and narrowed his eyes slightly. “Don’t you want to go back?”

I pursed my lips, sitting on the steps desolately while looking at him. “What have I done wrong?”

He frowned. “We’ll talk about this at home!”

Without moving, I sat on the ground and continued staring at him. "Tell me now, or we're not going back."

His expression seemed down as he looked at me and said, "Are you sure you want to talk here?"

I nodded.

I had thought that he would at least turn back and tug me by the hand. Unexpectedly, he got into the car, started it, and left without hesitation.

As I watched him driving further and further into the distance, I was stunned. I sat there for a long time, lost in thought. Did he really just left?

The apologies that I had prepared mentally in my mind turned into curses. The scene of him dumping me replayed in my mind over and over again.

Standing at the entrance of the restaurant for a long time, I decided to give Nora a call. The call went through, but it was Holden who answered it, "She's taking a shower. What's the matter?"

That came as a big shock, so I couldn't help but roar at him, "Holden, are you kidding me? I asked you to help me take care of her, not in this way! You're really... Ugh! I have nothing to say to you! There are lines that you cannot cross, Holden, and Armond's girlfriend is one of them! Is it that hard to understand?"

I admit that I was taking it all out on him. After all, I was furious with Ashton for dumping me, and I had nowhere to vent my anger. This man happened to pick up the phone, and so I acted accordingly.

On the other end, Holden was a little taken aback by my sudden outburst. "Excuse me, but you should calm down! I didn't touch her at all. You asked me to take her to my house. While she is taking a bath, the phone kept ringing, and it was bothering me, so I answered it. I didn't touch her at all, Scarlett. Can you get your head out of the gutter?"

Oh... Uh...

I was a little embarrassed, but at this point, I did not want to apologize. Hence, I said, "You think I don't know you? Don't you dare pretend to be such an upright person. I'm warning you; you'd better not do anything to her. If you do, don't blame me for taking action against you... Anyway, could you ask her the password for her place? I have to go to her house tonight."

"I knew it! This was all because of what happened between you and Ashton, yes? That's why you were so angry; even to the point that you wanted to leave home. But can't you at least leave me out of this? I didn't do anything wrong, so I clearly don't deserve this." Holden was scolded for no reason, so he started to complain.

After a while, his unhappy voice could be heard over the phone. "You've got a call. I swear, you women always take forever to shower."

Chapter 907

Obviously, these words were not meant for me.

Soon after that, Nora's voice came over on the line. "What did you say to him just now? Why is he so angry?"

I curled my lips and said, "I thought he was messing with you, so I gave him a piece of my mind. Anyway, enough about that guy. I was just calling you to tell you that I wanted to stay at your house tonight. Tell me the password so that I can at least have a place to sleep."

She sighed, "What happened? Did you quarrel with Ashton? Weren't you guys at A City for work purposes?"

In one breath, she asked so many questions that I felt dizzy.

Drawing in a deep breath, I replied, "We're here on a business trip. Just give me the password already. I'm outdoors, and it's freezing."

"The password's my birthday. But what happened between you both? Why did you quarrel?"

I was not in the mood to talk much, so I hung up the phone hastily after thanking her. After that, I called a cab and went to her place, which I had visited before. That was why I knew the address.

As soon as I reached her place, a stale odor came wafting to my nostrils. I guessed it was probably because she had not been home for quite a while.

While I was tidying up, my phone kept ringing. I took a look at the screen and saw that it was Ashton, so I did not answer. Instead, I turned my phone off instantly. One could say that this is unnecessary, but that is just how I am.

After all that, I lay on the bed with my restless thoughts, unable to fall asleep. After a while, the doorbell rang. I was taken aback at first, but then I guessed that Ashton had probably found me.

Thus, I got up to check, and it was indeed him. However, I just ignored him and pretended not to hear anything. Then, I went back to the bedroom to rest, but I underestimated how determined and stubborn this man could be.

Bang! With just a few kicks, he had broken down Nora's door. When I saw him in the bedroom, I was so angry that I threw the pillow at him and shouted, "Get lost, Ashton! Get out right now!"

He caught the pillow and looked at me. "I'm not the one at fault today!"

Upon his remark, I almost choked. “Excuse me? You’re the one who abandoned your wife and left! If it’s not your fault, then whose is it? Ashton, I initially thought that even though you’re an insensitive prick, you’re at least a gentleman. But, no... I guess I had really overestimated you. You’re even worse than that! In fact, you’re despicable.”

Clearly stunned, he looked at me and said, “I didn’t leave you behind. Joe told me that when a woman is angry, just get some cakes for her. She’ll feel better after having dessert.”

As he spoke, he solemnly handed me the box in his hand. “It’s from the shop you like. It’s matcha flavored!”

After hearing his explanation, I was exasperated. To be honest, I just wanted to ignore him. Then, I took in a deep breath and shouted at him, “I don’t want this! I don’t want to eat anything! As a matter of fact, please get away from me!”

Yet, he continued to stand there, unmoving. “It’s not safe being alone out here. Cut this nonsense, and let’s go home.”

Throwing the pillow in my hand at him, I trembled with anger, “Ashton, don’t you know me well enough? Am I a child? Don’t you know why I am angry? I had already apologized to you, so why are you still holding it against me? Are you deliberately looking for problems? Getting cakes for me... hah! I think you were driving to leave, and then you were afraid that I would hold a grudge against you, so you went to get cakes!”

With a darkened expression, he frowned at me. I thought he was going to be like before – knowing that I would win the argument, he would slam the door and leave, but he did not. Instead, he put the box in his hand next to me and picked up the pillow on the floor. Then, he looked at me and said, “I am cross with you because you know that angering Tessa is dangerous, but you still did it. I am upset that you don’t put your safety first or take care of yourself. And no, I didn’t plan to leave; I just went to buy you cakes.”

Although he explained everything very clearly, I was still angry. Hence, I did not want anything to do with him, so I pulled the quilt over my head and said to him, “Okay. You can go now!”

Even if he had given a clear explanation, the anger in my heart still remained, so I could not think straight. I still wanted to fight with him because that was just how I was. I knew that, so I controlled myself and asked him to leave quickly.

However, he couldn’t get it, and that, I could only say, was the difference between a man and a woman. Not only did he refuse to leave, but he lay down beside me and said, “Then we will stay here tonight. Since the door is broken, I will get someone to fix it.”

I took a deep breath and held it. When I saw him crawling in next to me, I kicked him without even thinking. It took him by surprise, so he rolled off the bed and landed on the ground, his head hitting the corner of the bedside table.

Wham! A muffled knock accompanied his soft grunt. I was taken aback for a moment and subconsciously wanted to go down to help him, but I did not know what was going on as I watched him holding his head.

I refrained myself, sat up, and asked tentatively, "Are you alright?"

His pained voice could be heard, "It hurts!"

Since I was not sure if he was telling the truth, I replied, "I didn't do it intentionally. I didn't think you'd fall. C'mon, get up, and let me take a look at you."

Chapter 908

"It hurts!" He was still lying on the ground without moving and just complaining about the pain.

At that, I could not help being a little worried, so I got down from the bed and went towards him. I saw that his forehead was badly bruised, and I felt a little sorry for him. "Sh*t, what the hell happened? I'm so sorry. Let me take care of it right away!"

I helped him onto the bed, and then I went to get some ointment. Maybe because of the bump, he was sitting very quietly on the bed, without moving an inch. I got the ointment and sat at the bedside to put some on his head. In a short while, someone came to repair the door.

After I applied some ointment for Ashton, I greeted the locksmith and sent them away after everything was done. They had installed a new digital lock, and the password was set to Nora's birthday.

When I returned to the bedroom, Ashton was lying in bed, apparently, asleep.

Seeing that the bruise on his forehead was less swollen now, I was relieved. After that, I turned off the lights and lay down right next to him. As soon as I closed my eyes, Ashton's arm was around me. "Go to sleep!" I frowned and said.

"I sleep better with you in my arms," he uttered childishly. This was obviously nonsense.

Due to what happened today at Tessa's and the incident at Lavelian Village, I couldn't help thinking of my previous accident in the hospital. I moved my body and leaned in to Ashton. "Ashton, did you investigate the accident that happened when I was in the hospital?"

He had not talked to me about this all this while. Moreover, due to the series of unfortunate events, I had also nearly forgotten about this.

The man put his arm around me and his chin on my shoulders. He was touching my ear all the time while speaking, and it was a little itchy. “This matter is related to Armond. Tessa and Abe both participated in it, and the hospital surveillance system was damaged. There was no way to get evidence.”

“Tessa?” I was surprised. “How did she get involved?”

“The anesthesia in the hospital was given to you by Abe’s men. It was Abe who took you away. Their initial purpose was to make you disappear for a few hours, but after they handed you to Tessa, they didn’t expect her to take you to the morgue and put you in the freezer.” He put his arms around me and sighed, “Your friend is viler than you realize. Do avoid her as far as possible next time. In fact, it’s better if you don’t meet up with her at all.”

When he finished that, I was stunned for a moment. I still couldn’t fully get what he was saying, so I asked, “Did you mean to say that Abe and Tessa joined forces to harm me?”

He nodded, “After you were given anesthetics, Abe took you into the elevator. But when you got out of the elevator, Tessa took over. Their plan was to let Tessa take you to a hidden place and let you sleep for a few days so that I would not have the peace of mind to take care of the things in Lavelian Village. However, they didn’t expect Tessa to send you there, let alone that I would save you.”

I froze for a few seconds before digesting what he meant. Then I frowned and looked at him. “Tessa took me away today to threaten you, so you

would not prosecute Armond. Yet you have already contacted the police and lawyers. Is it possible for you to change anything now?"

He nodded, "Before the case is filed, everything can be changed. Today is the last day to do so."

I pursed my lips silently for a while and said, "But isn't Abe already dead? Tessa has been with me all day, and she couldn't have threatened you. Who else is involved in this?"

He raised his hand to my zipper while his voice was low and resonant. "I haven't figured this out yet!"

Realizing that he was going to kiss me, I avoided him and said, "How is Armond today? Did you let him go?"

He stretched out his hand to pull me close into his arms, his voice husky, "Mm-hmm!"

I frowned at his response. "He almost killed you, Ashton. How could he let him go so easily? You're going too easy on him."

Nonetheless, he was distracted. The man merely hummed a response and trapped me between his legs. I opened my eyes wide and raised my hand to push him away. "Ashton, stop it!"

“Oh, for goodness’ sake, Scarlett! We’re married!” His voice was a little hoarse. I pursed my lips, pushed him away slightly, and distanced myself from him. “Not today... I’m too sleepy.”

It was true as I slept quite a lot lately.

However, he didn’t let me go, so I pursed my lips and said, “Ashton, I’m really sleepy. I don’t want to!”

This went on for a while.

That night, I was reluctant. Ashton stopped after trying to persuade me a few times. After that, he held me and muttered, “When we have time, we need to make a visit to the hospital!”

At that moment, I was too sleepy to reply sensibly.

The weather was quite rough the next day.

It had been half a month since we came to A City. Cameron called and said that Summer had been prone to catching a cold recently. She didn’t know that until she took Summer out.

It didn’t come much of a surprise to me since K City was cold, and Summer was born prematurely. For all these years, I had lived with her in R Province, and the weather there was just right, so she rarely got sick. Two

years ago, we moved to K City suddenly. Hence, with the change in environment, the girl would easily catch a cold now and then. However, this was all considered normal since she needed time to get used to the new environment.

Chapter 909

I was on a call with Cameron when Ashton came to me and said, “We have the bidding at Oasis Hotel this afternoon. You should come with me.”

Seeing the serious look on him, I hung up the call and frowned. “Do I have to go? I’m not involved in the tender anyway. Besides, I only know that it’s to find a supplier for the project. If not, Rachel’s two years of hard work would go to waste.”

He handed me a black tie to let me help him with it. “I really think you should go with me. I can’t be at ease if you’re here alone. Tessa has been released from the police station, so I’m worried you might be in danger.”

As soon as he said that, I creased my brow, puzzled. “What? She almost killed me! How can they let her go just after a night? Is law made for nothing?”

He pursed his lips and responded, "Since she did not inflict direct physical harm, the police can't lay any charges on her, so she can't be detained for more than twelve hours."

No direct physical harm? Upon hearing that, I almost fainted right there and then. "That was attempted murder! The police were even at the scene when it happened. How could there be no evidence? So they can only charge a murderer after the victim has died? How ridiculous!"

I could not help but fume as I thought about the times she had harmed me. First, she almost froze me to death in the hospital. And this time, I was almost killed by her again. How could they say there's no evidence of her crime when all this while she's been plotting my death?

Seeing that I was shaking with anger, Ashton placed his warm hands on me and calmed me down. "She found someone to bail her out. By the time my subordinates arrived at the police station, she was already gone."

"Huh? Who bailed her out?" Isn't she from a small county? And Tabitha told me that she did not have any close friends there. How could she have someone to bail her out?

"It was Derek Watson." Ashton grabbed my hand and brought me down to the entrance. Then, he asked me to wait for him while he went to get his car.

Mr. Watson? Linda's ex-husband?

A while later, Ashton drove over and picked me up. I looked at him and asked, "Why is he involved in this matter? I only know that there are some business relations between them. But why would he bail her out? That was her private matter."

He turned to me and sighed, "Have you ever look into Tessa's background?"

His question made me even more confused. When he saw me staring at him, he smiled and said, "They had a complicated relationship when they were young. And do you know that she had a tea business?"

His words reminded me that when we were in Venria, Tessa said that she used to have two houses and a Mercedes-Benz when she was in her twenties, and she even had two shops that sold tea leaves. Her assets were probably worth a few million. If she were from a wealthy family, I could understand why a young girl from a rural area could own so much, but she was not. Come to think of it, I realized there was more to her story than what she had told us.

I looked at Ashton, waiting for him to elaborate, but he hesitated and said, "I still need to investigate more before I could explain it to you."

Although Ashton did not tell me more, I somehow understood the situation. If one looked at Tessa closely, one could see that she had a slight saddle nose deformity and an asymmetrical jaw. She probably had plastic surgery ten years ago and failed to follow up for maintenance, so her facial features had turned crooked over the years.

“How about the things that happened yesterday?” The only one I could think of was him.

As Ashton drove down the road, he deliberated for a while and replied, “I don’t think it’s him. He wouldn’t involve himself in this complicated matter.”

When we arrived at the entrance of the Oasis Hotel, there were many people gathered at the door. They seemed as if they were there to welcome Ashton. I turned to him and asked, “Were you the one who arranged this?”

He shook his head. “It’s not me.”

Later, a middle-aged man with a potbelly came towards us as we walked into the hotel. I did not recognize him at first, but as he came closer, I realized that he was Derek. When he saw Ashton, he rushed over and greeted Ashton enthusiastically. “When I heard that you’re inviting companies to rebid, I can’t wait to come and join it. Mr. Fuller, I hope you won’t ignore us this time.”

Geez, this man is really awful!

I pursed my lips and held Ashton’s arm. Derek then turned to me and smiled awkwardly. “Ms. Stovall, long time no see. You’re still as beautiful as ever.”

What I admired about Derek was that he never failed to put up a smile and ingratiate himself with the person he disliked even when both of them knew that they hate each other.

I pursed my lips and frowned, refusing to talk to him. I've not forgotten what he did at the bar, and I certainly won't let it slide. Seeing my attitude, he was not upset at all. He then humbly introduced his company to Ashton and curried favor with him.

On the other hand, Ashton remained silent the whole time, looking impassive as always. I wondered if he paid attention to Derek's words as I definitely did not listen to any of them.

However, there was one thing I wanted to comment on. I narrowed my eyes at Derek and said, "I see Mr. Watson is a man with multiple careers."

"Oh, Ms. Stovall, you've misunderstood! How could a person like me own a company? It's my ambitious wife who established the company. She's been aspiring to become a successful businesswoman for a long time. So, I took a day off to be here today to help her bid for this project."

Chapter 910

I gave him a faint smile. “Oh, so it belongs to your wife? Seems like I’m the one who had overthought. But I do hope to meet your wife one day.”

Just then, the elevator arrived, and Derek changed the topic, ushering Ashton into the elevator. When we reached the destination, he excused himself and went away.

Ashton glanced at me and said, “You’re normally a quiet person, but you’re surprisingly chatty with Derek just now. Did he offend you before?”

I shrugged nonchalantly and found myself a seat to sit. “Not really, but he did infuriate me before. I really dislike him. He abandoned his wife and his child, and yet he still had the nerve to say that the company belongs to his wife. What a jerk!”

He looked at me curiously and asked, “How did you know about his background?”

I pursed my lips. “His ex-wife is Linda, and she is a single parent. He does not have a wife at all, so it was all lies. He was the one who owns the company. Hmph, I swear I’ve never seen such a corrupt person.”

As I continued to badmouth Derek, Ashton gazed at me amusedly.

Suddenly, Rachel came over and passed a document to Ashton. When she saw me sitting beside him, she furrowed her brows, displeased with my presence. She probably thought that it was inappropriate for me to observe the tendering process.

I did not take it to heart and ignored her. After he looked through the document, he looked at her and asked, "Is Motha Group a financial investment firm?"

Rachel nodded in response. "It used to be an investment company, but it has changed into a small company recently, managed by a young girl. They are not doing so well, so you don't have to put this company into your consideration."

"Okay. Who would be their representative today?"

Rachel was surprised that Ashton would ask more about the company. "It's the daughter of the former chairperson, Scott Webster. Her name is Hailey Webster. She is still quite young. Rumor has it that she took over the deteriorating company not long after her father passed away. Currently, their business is just barely managing to get by."

He frowned, seemingly deep in his thought.

Half an hour later, the event started. Rachel had always been competent at work, so it was not a surprise that she could manage the entire tendering process without Ashton's guidance. Hence, he did not participate in the

facilitation process but only observed the tendering among the members of the audience with me.

A few hours passed, and the big companies were finally done with their proposal presentations. I was about to fall asleep when a young lady with a cold, impassive face went up the stage, instantly catching my attention.

There was nothing special about her, but it was hard not to notice an adolescent who looked about seventeen years old presenting on the stage as all the other presenters were adults.

The girl was wearing a black dress, looking a little gloomy. She stood on the stage, swept a glance over the audience, and started to present her proposal calmly.

However, her proposal did not attract any attention from the audience. An expert in construction tendering would probably comment that her proposal did not have any points that stood out, so it was rather boring and general. Therefore, my attention was not on her presentation but on her face.

At first glance, this little girl looked rather low-spirited and had an air of melancholy around her, like a dead soul in a living body. I did not know why I would describe her in this way, but this was the feeling I got when I first landed my gaze on her.

Since the Motha Group was a small company, no questions were asked from the host, and she came down from the stage as soon as she ended her presentation. Nonetheless, I could not help but stare at her as she

walked past me. Noticing that someone was looking at her, she glanced in my direction.

Our eyes met, and I felt inexplicably cold; there was not even a hint of warmth in this girl.

I averted my gaze and focused on Rachel, who was announcing the tender results on the stage. The Fuller Corporation was a big company, after all. Hence, many corporations were eager to win the bid as a deal signed with the Fuller Corporation would guarantee a huge profit to their companies.

After a detailed analysis of the tender documents submitted by the participating big companies, she decided to choose Derek's trading company in the end. The decision was fully entrusted to her as Ashton trusted her excellent capability at work.

Therefore, he made no further comments.

When the event came to an end, Rachel and Ashton still had some discussion to make, so I wandered around the room and saw the girl in a black dress standing at the entrance. As I got closer to her, I realized that she was staring blankly at a piece of art in front of her.

I believed humans had an instinct to seek only benefits and avoid danger. Standing in front of the girl, my gut told me to stay away from her and not to get involved with her. There were so many things about her that I was familiar with but unwilling to face.

When I was about to turn and leave, she suddenly called out to me. “I thought you wanted to chat with me.”

I hesitated for a moment and turned around eventually. Looking at her dark brown eyes, I said, “Business is not suitable for you.”

Unperturbed, she nodded. “I know.”

I pursed my lips and cast my gaze on the poignant image in front of her. It seemed to be unrelated to the bidding. Perhaps it was left to be displayed here merely for aesthetic purposes.