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Hearing that, I almost choked on my food. That man was deliberately hurting Rachel's feelings!

Eventually, I managed to swallow the lump of food and suppress the urge to cough. Forcing a smile, I asked through gritted teeth, "Mr. Fuller, don't you have hands?"

Ashton curled his lips into a smirk, leaving no trace of his usual sobriety. "Well, my hand is occupied."

As he spoke, he even unabashedly picked up the document that he just put aside, raising his brow at me.

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I pursed my lips, rendered speechless. Meanwhile, Rachel could take it no more. She rose to her feet and took leave of Ashton, "Mr. Fuller, I'll leave the document to you. There's something I need to take care of, and I'll be going now."

Although disappointed, the young lady managed to put up a good front as she left the yard.

Gazing at Ashton, I was utterly speechless. This man must have done it on purpose!

Sometimes, I couldn't help feeling impressed by Rachel's high tolerance. Since she stepped foot in the villa, the young lady had been plastering a smile despite receiving such humiliation from Ashton.

I didn't know a woman could put up with such humiliation just because she loved a man.

Having lost my appetite, I put down my fork. Gazing at Ashton, I spoke up, "Mr. Fuller, if you don't like her, you should tell her frankly instead of humiliating her. Can't you show some gentlemanly behavior?"

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"Well, I'm not a gentleman anyway." Fixing his eyes at me, he uttered, "Besides, I'm married.

As a woman, she should stay away from a married man. I don't need to teach her that, do I?"

I pursed my lips, feeling unsettled under his stare. Still, I reminded him, "We're divorced, and you're single now. It's normal for Rachel to like an eligible bachelor like you. You can't blame her for that."

The man sneered, "If I'm eligible, then why did you divorce me?"

Knowing that I couldn't argue with him, I stood up and then gave him a put-off, "Well, you're eligible, but that doesn't mean we're suitable together."

The man, too, rose to his feet. "What do you mean by that? Then who's suitable for you?" he asked, looking at me indifferently.

I thought he was only trying to mess with me, so I decided to end the conversation. "Since Ms. Zimmer has left, I suppose there's nothing much to discuss today. I'm leaving now."

Just then, he grabbed hold of my wrist and stopped me from leaving. I pursed my lips, feeling on edge. Still, I put on a brave front, asking calmly, "Mr. Fuller, what are you trying to do?"

Ashton raised his brow. "I'm the one who took care of you in the hospital after you fell into the pit in Lavelian Village."

As he spoke, he leaned closer to me. "Even if I'm a stranger, don't you think you owe me a thank you for saving you and taking care of you?"

I tensed up at his overbearing aura and said meekly, "Thank you."

The man let out a chuckle. "I saved your life! And you're going to repay my kindness with just a simple thank you?"

"Then how do you want me to thank you?" I knew he was up to no good, yet I couldn't possibly be an ungrateful person. After all, I really owed him big time.

The next moment, I had my back against the wall as the man loomed over me. "If you really want to thank me, move here and take care of my daily meals starting from tomorrow onwards," he said in a deep voice.

With my brows knotted, I rejected without a second thought, "Ashton Fuller, I take care of Armond's daily meal because that's my job. He pays me a salary for that."

Hearing that, he raised his brow. "I can pay you as well."

"That won't do!" Every part of the villa would remind me of the past with him. I was afraid that I might lose my heart to him again.

The man sneered, "I've saved you! Aren't you grateful at all? You said you wanted to thank me, but you can't even agree to my small request?"

Pursing my lips, I avoided his eyes. Soon, I came up with an excuse, "Well, I've already agreed to Armond's request. Besides, I'm now the Murphy Corporation's employee..."

Just then, Ashton interrupted me. "You should go now."

He then let go of my hand, his eyes dimmed with disappointment. "Go. I can't force you if you don't want to. I won't degrade myself to that extent."

Upon noticing the disappointment in his eyes, my heart dropped. At that moment, I was stumped.

After some time, I relented, "I'm not free in the afternoon and night, but I'll come in the morning."

With that, I left the yard and then headed back to Armond's villa.

Since there was no one in the yard, I supposed the two were back in the house.

As soon as I entered the living room, I called out, "Nora, you..."

I trailed off upon seeing Nora and Armond kissing passionately on the couch.

If I didn't barge in, the two would've already hit the second base.

Hearing my voice, Nora instantly pushed Armond off her, her face turned as red as an apple. As for Armond, the man stroked the bridge of his nose while excusing himself, "I'll head to the office now. I'll leave you guys alone."

I could sense awkwardness in the air. Soon, Armond left the villa. Feeling embarrassed, Nora dared not to look at me as she cleared her throat and explained, "Sorry about that. We should find another place."

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I took a seat next to her and teased, "Well, I understand. When the two of you are madly in love, it's hard to suppress the impulse."

With her face flushed, she gauchely changed the topic, "Where were you and Ashton just now?"

"Next door."

Nora nodded. As the conversation went along, the awkwardness slowly dispersed. "I heard you calling me just now. Is there anything else?" she asked.

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I shook my head. "No."

Nora muttered a response. Once again, an awkward silence ensued.

I supposed the shy Nora needed some time alone, so I stood up and excused myself, "Um... I'll go upstairs and go through the documents."

In the room, I read the documents for a while, absent-minded. I couldn't seem to focus with my mind constantly wandering off.

Frustrated, I tossed the documents aside and walked to the balcony to take a break.

The balcony next door was only a wall's distance away. Ashton was reading on the balcony while enjoying his leisure time.

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Upon seeing him, in an instinct, I wanted to get back into my room. Yet, before I could do anything, the man suddenly looked up at me. He then put his book aside while casually gazing at me.

Having no choice, I forced a smile and greeted, "Hi, Mr. Fuller. What a coincidence!"

The man's gaze darkened. "We live next door. It's not a coincidence."

Ugh! This man is really a conversation killer!

With a perfunctory smile, I said, "Well, I'll leave you then. I'm going back to my room."

"Do you think you can hide from me forever?" he asked in a deep voice.

I pursed my lips, feeling a little awkward. I then turned around to face him and denied, "You're thinking too much. I'm not hiding from you, and I really have something to do."

"We need someone to be in charge of most of the projects of Lavelian Village. Also, the Fuller Corporation's project will kick off tomorrow. I'm afraid it will be a mess since Linda doesn't know much about the details of the project."

I was confused at his words. "But Linda has always been in charge of the projects. I think she does better than me when it comes to paying attention to the details. Mr. Fuller, there is no need to worry."

With a faint smile, Ashton cast his eyes over at the pots of plants on the balcony. "Well, she might know a lot of the flaws of the Murphy Corporation. Yet, she's too familiar with the company, and that's the very reason that she might unconsciously overlook them."

I mulled over his words. After a while, I reassured him, "I'll go to the Lavelian Village tomorrow. Mr. Fuller, don't you worry. Since we have taken over this project, we'll do our best to make sure everything is perfect."

The man's gaze was deep with unfathomable emotion.

I once again reminded myself to stay away from him, or I would lose myself to him again.

The next day, I received a call from Linda. She was gabbling in a panic over the phone, "Scarlett, are you feeling better today? Could you please come to the Lavelian Village?"

I was slightly bewildered, and I had a bad feeling about it. "Sure. But what's wrong?"

"As you know, we are going to build an AI technology museum in the base. Since the museum is still under construction, we temporarily stored those AI devices and instruments that we got from Fuller Corporation in the Science and Technology Research Base. Mr. Murphy has even instructed the security guards to guard them. Unfortunately, we found out

that someone sneaked into the base last night. Some of the AI instruments were stolen. The policemen are still investigating it. Anyway, I've contacted Mr. Fuller, and he will send someone to help verify the stolen instruments."

Linda was on the verge of crying. "I have checked on those AI instruments before I left yesterday, and I even reminded the security guards to keep an eye on them. I never thought something like this could happen."

There was no use crying over spilled milk. Thus, I instructed, "Don't panic, Linda. The base is equipped with surveillance cameras. I need you to get the policemen to check the surveillance cameras. Everything will be fine. We will find those instruments back."

After a short pause, I added, "I'll be there soon. Stay calm and assist the policemen with their investigation. We need to minimize the loss of the company."

As soon as I hung up the phone, I grabbed my purse and rushed out of the villa.

Meanwhile, Joseph came out of the villa next door, carrying some documents, with panic written all over his face. When the young man saw me, he was slightly relieved. "Mrs. Fuller, are you going to the Lavelian Village? Why don't we give you a ride? It's hard to hail a cab here."

Just then, Ashton walked out of the villa in his black suit. He cast me an indifferent glance before getting into the car.

Joseph was right; It would be difficult to hail a cab around the villa neighborhood, let alone a cab that could take me to Lavelian Village. Thus, I'd better go with them. "Alright then. Thank you."

I opened the door of the passenger seat to find that it was occupied with boxes of documents. Joseph said awkwardly, "Mrs. Fuller, you'll need to sit in the back seat. There are too many documents coming in over the past few days, and the boot is packed."

I nodded. Although it would be awkward, I had no choice but to sit in the back seat with Ashton.

Soon the car drove off. Joseph struck up a conversation with me, "Mrs. Fuller, have you heard about what happened in Lavelian Village?"

I nodded and replied, "Yes. Linda called just now. It's Murphy Corporation's mistake and negligence. We're very sorry for what happened."

Since the stolen instruments concerned the Fuller Corporation's artificial intelligence high-tech research, I asked, "Is Ms. Zimmer going to Lavelian Village as well?"

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