# **Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 657**

### Mrs. Keller

"How is it, Mr. Kamp? How many mistakes did she make?" Mason anxiously stood beside Martin. He had already made up his mind. As long as Elise managed to score a hundred points and above, he would allow her to remain in the Elite Class even if he had to burn his bridges with Martin.

Martin lowered his eyes, looking as though he had seen a ghost. He weakly murmured, "Full marks."

"Full marks!?" Mason was ecstatic. He immediately snatched up the test paper and reviewed the answers excitedly. When he saw the final question, he happily grinned from ear to ear. Not only did Elise answer the question, but she also answered the question correctly.

She is a genius! She really is a genius! Given enough time, she will have more extraordinary achievements than me! No, she will stand above everybody else in the classroom!

"This is amazing! Miss Sinclair, I hereby announce that you can remain in the Elite Class!" He emotionally announced.

"But, Mr. Young..."

"Mr. Kamp, please refrain from speaking." When Martin tried to stir up further trouble, Mason immediately cut Martin off. "If my memory serves me right, you were in charge of safekeeping the answer sheets last night. Given your attitude toward Miss Sinclair, it's also possible that you were the one who tampered with her answer sheet. Do you want me to report this matter to the principal so that he can perform a thorough investigation?"

Martin panicked when he heard those words and immediately changed his tune. "Mr. Young, what are you talking about? I am a teacher. How can I possibly do something like that!? You might have misunderstood my words. I meant to say that Miss Sinclair has such good scores and strong learning abilities. Therefore, we should not only keep such a good student in this class but also entrust her with some important responsibilities. Perhaps, we can appoint her as the class leader or something."

Mason rolled his eyes. How amazing. He's gone and said all the good things now.

Martin was very thick-skinned. He ignored Mason's reaction and cleared his throat before shyly turning to Elise and making nice with her. "Miss Sinclair, are you willing to take up some responsibilities in the class?"

"Mr. Kamp, are you asking me?" She crossed her arms in front of her chest and lifted her chin arrogantly.

To sum things up, the meaning behind this question was equivalent to, "Are you begging me?"

Various expressions of fury flitted across his face, creating an absolutely fascinating sight as he could not stomach her arrogant appearance. Unfortunately, if he failed to coax her well and she brought this matter to the principal's attention, Kenneth might even be summoned as a result. He would only bring a great deal of trouble down upon himself. It's not worth it.

Thus, he forced a smile on his face and spoke in an ingratiating manner. "That's right. Just think of it as helping the teachers and taking care of the students in the class."

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"Haha..." Elise laughed wildly. Then, her expression abruptly turned cold. She expressionlessly said, "I'm not free."

He was thoroughly rejected even though he was only trying to please, and his expression froze on his face. Then, after gaping like a goldfish awkwardly, he could only take the attitude and remained silent.

"Alright then. Since Miss Sinclair is reluctant, then let's not force her. The lessons for today will end here. So, everyone is free to go." Mason waved his hand to indicate for the others to leave.

Martin was the first to turn around and walk out as though escaping from something.

Mason held Elise's answer sheet in his hand as though he were handling some sort of treasure. Then, he turned around, walked back to the podium, and carefully placed the answer sheet into his briefcase.

"Yes! Elise, we can continue to be classmates!" Mica happily ran over to congratulate Elise.

Elise pursed her lips and smiled. At that moment, Stefan happened to pass by in front of her. So, she called out to him. "Mr. Reilly."

"Can I help you, Miss Sinclair?" Stefan stopped in his tracks and said indifferently.

Thank you. Both for today and the last time," she said sincerely.

"It's nothing. Don't worry about it," he replied.

After they finished speaking, they stood facing each other for a moment. Then, the atmosphere between them suddenly became awkward.

Elise had heard the whispered conversation among the students earlier to some extent. A young man's love was pure and genuine, but she could not reciprocate such feelings.

She was wondering how to turn him down gently to prevent hurting his self-esteem. But, she was also worried that she might be overthinking things. It would only embarrass them both if she rashly mentioned something like that.

After a brief period of silence, Stefan seemed to realize her concerns and took the initiative to explain. "Miss Sinclair, please don't worry. I don't have any other intentions toward you. I simply cherish your talents. I knew that you were the only person in this class whose abilities surpassed mine. You didn't let me down after all."

Her nervousness suddenly evaporated, and she burst out laughing. "Thank you."

He was probably the kind of person who respected others like himself. He would only help due to logic and not due to emotions. For that reason, people like him generally received great respect from those around them.

"If you really want to thank me, then bring more challenging questions to discuss with me in the future." After saying that, he nodded at the other two in greeting and walked out.

Outside the small white building, Elliot chewed on some chewing gum and squatted on a marble slab with his bag on his back. He was wallowing in boredom as he waited for Sheldon to come out of the classroom.

When the students of the Elite Class passed by and saw him, they grinned and teased him in a joking manner.

"Mrs. Keller! Why haven't you left?"

"Elliot, I hope you don't wait so long that you turn into stone! Hahahaha!"

"F\*ck off!" Elliot leaped off the marble slab. "If you talk nonsense again, I will rip your mouth to pieces!"

"Oh, my! Mrs. Keller, you're so fierce! Can't you take a joke!?" One of the male students fearlessly provoked him.

### "Fred Pearce! I'm going to kill you! Stand right there!"

Elliot chased after that student and rounded a corner. Then, all of a sudden, the boy shifted directions. Unable to dodge in time, he ran straight into Alexander, who was walking over from the opposite side. He was sent flying and fell to his butt.

"Ow..." He rubbed his chest where he had been bumped, and his small face was scrunched up in pain. "Who is so blind!?"

When he opened his eyes to see Alexander's face in front of him, he abruptly swallowed nervously and immediately forced the words on the tip of his tongue down. Then, he smiled charmingly. "Mr. Griffith..."

Alexander stood there and raised an eyebrow at Elliot. He looked at Elliot suspiciously. "What did that person call you just now?"

"It's nothing." Elliot climbed up from the floor and muttered under his breath. "Why is this man's body as tough as a wall?"

"What did you say?" Alexander asked again.

"No! Nothing!" Elliot hurriedly explained.

Last time, Alexander beat Sheldon so badly that he could not get out of bed for three days. That incident remained fresh in Elliot's mind. So, he did not dare to mess around with this guy.

At this time, Elise walked out with Mica and Sheldon in tow.

"What are you talking about?"

"It's all because of you…" Elliot complained with an aggrieved expression. "This is great. Now everybody thinks that I have feelings for Sheldon…"

"Pfft." Mica couldn't help bursting into laughter and made fun of him. "Don't you?"

"How is that possible!? Even if all the people in the world died, I wouldn't fall in love with him, okay!?" He roared.

"Hey!" Sheldon was abruptly lit with pettiness. "Is it embarrassing to like me now? I haven't settled this debt with you! Why didn't you say you were jealous of Boss or something!? Why did you have to mention me!? How am I supposed to get a girlfriend in the future!?"

"Did you think I didn't want to!?" Elliot howled loudly. "If I said..." If I said that I like Elise and this conversation spreads to Alexander, then won't he beat me up to the point of becoming a cripple!?

"Forget it." He felt so upset that he wanted to cry, but all he could do was comfort himself. Heroes will always have to carry a heavier burden than the non-heroes.

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# **Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 658**

Sent by Mayweather Polytechnic University to Cause Trouble?

Alexander raised an eyebrow and couldn't help wondering whether he had also been this noisy when he was still in college. Even a dog will be disgusted by this noise.

"What's wrong?" Elise asked when she noticed his absent-minded state.

"It's nothing," he replied faintly. "The car is parked at the school gates. Why don't you head there first? I need to speak to the principal about something."

"What is it?" she asked.

"The principal wants me to help obtain some sponsorship for the school." He randomly found an excuse.

"Oh. Alright then. Make it quick. We are supposed to go back and give Grandma a checkup." She reminded him. After she said her goodbyes to Mica and the others, she went ahead to the gates to wait.

•••

Mason excitedly rushed into the principal's office, took out Elise's answer sheet from his briefcase, and placed the answer sheet on the table. "Mr. Haas! Look! We finally have a talented student in the school!"

When Leon heard those words, he immediately removed his earphones and picked up the answer sheet with a solemn expression. However, despite glancing through the entire answer sheet from top to bottom, he could not understand anything else except that the person who answered these questions had beautiful handwriting. Therefore, he couldn't help frowning.

"Oh! It's like this." Mason noticed the principal's confusion and hurriedly leaned across the table. Then, he stretched out his arm, pointed at the final question, and explained. "This additional question is something even Stefan Reilly, the top student of the physics department, could only get a few points for using the right processes. But on the other hand, Elise Sinclair scored full marks. Moreover, she made no mistakes when answering the entire set of questions."

"What did you say? This is Elise Sinclair's test paper?" Leon couldn't help glancing at the answer sheet again. He repeatedly nodded in satisfaction. "Yes, that's right. It looks like her handwriting."

"Mr. Haas, that's not the point. The point is that Elise has an extraordinary talent in physics. She achieved such results in less than a month! She is a genius among geniuses!" Mason rubbed his palms together. Just thinking about teaching a genius made him extremely excited.

At this moment, somebody knocked on the open door behind them. Knock. Knock.

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The two turned to look in that direction and saw Alexander standing expressionlessly at the door. His expression was gloomy and stern. Furthermore, it felt as though his entire body was cloaked in a shadow of gloom.

"Mr. Griffith, please don't stand on courtesy. Come in." Leon called out.

Alexander walked in and got straight to the point. He questioned, "I heard that there was an incident where a student's answer sheet was tampered with in the Elite Class's recent monthly exam. I want to ask you about how the matter has been handled, Mr. Haas."

"Huh? Did something like that happen?" Leon was utterly clueless about the matter, so he could only turn to look weakly at Mason for help.

The smile on Mason's face froze. For a moment, he couldn't help feeling awkward. This incident only just happened. How did he know about this matter so quickly? He sure is well-informed.

"It's true that such a thing did occur." He nodded solemnly, and then he continued with some guilt, "It's my fault for not taking care of answer sheets properly. I hold some responsibility for this matter."

"Mr. Young, the only responsibility you hold is that you are way too soft-hearted. If I had not come today, wouldn't this matter have ended just like that?" Alexander's expression was gloomy, and his tone was harsh.

Elise was good-natured. She couldn't care less about the people playing petty tricks behind her back, but he could not do the same. Anybody who touches Ellie will have to pay the price.

Those words struck the nail, and Mason lowered his head in shame. He did not have a confrontational nature. When he saw that it had harmed nobody's interests in the incident, he had indeed decided to take a step back and leave well enough alone, and he never expected Alexander to drop by.

"Mr. Griffith, how do you plan to deal with this matter?" Leon asked good-naturedly.

"Find the culprit who tampered with the answer sheets and severely punish him." Alexander's intentions were concise and to the point.

"Of course." Leon nodded and asked Mason, "Mr. Young, do you have any suspects?"

Mason sighed and said, "Actually, Elliot Howard has already confessed to the crime. He claims that he modified the answer sheet by himself. It's just that he was just disqualified from staying in the Elite Class. I'm afraid he might not be able to bear the pressure if we add another punishment on top of that."

"Elliot Howard?" Leon couldn't help feeling apprehensive when he heard that name. His father provided a lot of funding for Tissote University. This person is not somebody I can touch easily.

"Not him." Alexander had no patience to wait for the elderly to investigate the case themselves. Therefore, he got straight to the point. "Martin Kamp."

"Mr. Kamp!?" Leon furrowed his eyebrows in surprise. He opened his mouth to ask Mason for an explanation. Upon further thought, he realized that Martin had always been hostile toward Elise. It was indeed possible for Martin to do something like that, so he could only swallow all the words that were on the tip of his tongue back into his stomach.

Martin, oh, Martin... Why won't you help support your students instead? How can you do something like frame your own student!?

"That was also my guess." Mason had always been a just and impartial man. What's more, Martin was targeting talented students like Elise. A person who was jealous of talent was not fit to be a teacher, much less a lecturer at Tissote University.

Leon sighed tiredly. "Why would Mr. Kamp do something like that!?"

### Alexander remained silent. Evil people do not need a reason to perform evil deeds.

After Mason thought about the question, a reason suddenly came to him. "Could it be that Mayweather Polytechnic University sent Mr. Kamp to cause trouble for us?"

Over the past few years, Tissote University has suffered various losses at the hands of Mayweather Polytechnic University. First, it started with the number of students for the college entrance examinations. Then, it was the teaching staff. If they were still dissatisfied with those results, it was not impossible for them to deliberately send Martin over to attack the best students at Tissote University.

The more Leon considered the possibility, the more he felt that it made sense. There was no better explanation aside from this reasoning.

When that thought crossed his mind, his expression became very stern. He looked at Alexander seriously. "Mr. Griffith, please rest assured. I will definitely give you and Miss Sinclair a proper explanation for this issue. It's just that this matter concerns the vicious competition between the two schools, so I hope that you can bear with this issue for a while. Then, once we investigate the matter and find conclusive evidence, we will deal with this matter."

"Do you need help?" Alexander asked coldly.

"Huh? No. Not for this," Leon replied politely but proudly. "I have the ability to deal with something as minor as this. There's no need to bother you with this matter, Mr. Griffith."

"Do it as soon as possible." Alexander turned around and left without even looking back after saying those words. He was absolutely arrogant and decisive, leaving Mason and Leon behind to stare at each other.

A short while later, Leon came back to his senses and quietly said to Mason, "Mr. Young, please carry out this matter secretly. Please don't spread the news around..."

Elise was feeling very bored inside the car, so she casually checked the address of Apocalypse Strike's meeting place that she received. The results indicated that it was in the vicinity of the National Institute of Physics.

Wendy's seemingly kind but difficult-to-read face flashed through her mind for a moment.

Julius' WhatsApp message popped up. The vibration of her phone dragged her back to the present.

'Boss, somebody wants to buy your calligraphy. Will you sell?'

She tapped her keyboard. 'Who is it?'

Julius replied instantly. 'The other party has concealed their ID address, so we can't figure out anything for the time being. But, he is very generous. He offered one million for each word.'

Oh? How generous. 'Sell it.'

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# **Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 659**

### S-Class Badge

After further consideration, Elise added another sentence. 'Put out the bait to catch the big fish.'

Julius immediately understood. 'Understood.'

Two days later, Elise returned to the dormitory to pick up her things after class. Mica was practicing calligraphy. After they greeted each other, Mica immediately began to sigh.

"What's wrong?" Elise asked in concern.

"When will I finally receive guidance from QH of the Calligraphy Association if I continue practicing like this?" Mica asked dejectedly.

Elise leaned over to take a look. Mica's words were not distinct, but they were clean and graceful. They gave off a delicate and exquisite vibe.

"I think they look great," Elise commented objectively.

"Thank you, Elise. I know you're just trying to cheer me up." Mica put down her brush and sat back in her chair. Then, she looked up at the ceiling in despair and said, "I know my own abilities. But, with these chicken-scrawl-like words, it will be difficult for me to even join the school's calligraphy club, let alone Tissote's Calligraphy Association."

Elise mulled over those words for a bit. Then, she turned around and returned to her desk. Taking out a gilded badge from the accessories in her bag, she handed the badge to Mica. "Here. Take this."

Mica was stunned for a moment. Her eyes lit up immediately after taking a good look at the badge. She got up excitedly and took the badge. "Isn't this a badge from Tissote's Calligraphy Association? So, you're a member of the Calligraphy Association, Elise! But why is your badge golden? I've seen the badges of other members. They are usually blue or silver..."

"Uh... This is the color for prospective members." Elise came up with a random excuse. "In any case, you have the badge now. Then, when the Calligraphy Association holds an exchange meeting, you will be able to join in and learn some tips from the members there."

"Is this okay?" Mica asked cautiously.

"What's wrong with that? The Calligraphy Association is just a gathering of people who love calligraphy. And, you really love calligraphy. So, just take it as though you're attending an open class. It'll be fine," Elise said lightly. "This badge was given to me by a friend. So, I'm sure there won't be a problem since she gave it to me. But, it's a waste not to use this badge."

"Alright then! Thank you, Elise!" Mica happily accepted the badge.

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The badge was so ingeniously and exquisitely designed that Mica even wore the badge when she went out on her date with Sebastian. It was not for showing off. She simply felt that it was very beautiful. More importantly, it matched well with her outfit today.

Unfortunately, it was clear that Sebastian failed to notice the bright little spot on her outfit. He was acting like a stereotypical straight guy as usual. Not only did he keep a distance that was neither too far nor too near from her, but he was also too embarrassed to be too direct even though he tried to hold her hand.

At a specific corner in the school garden, Sebastian moved even further away from Mica when they bumped into Tiana, who was walking toward them. Nevertheless, Tiana immediately saw through their relationship at a glance. She swept a deep and meaningful glance over Mica. Sebastian sure isn't picky.

"Sebastian, your girlfriend sure is adorable." When Tiana uttered those words, she deliberately smiled without showing her teeth. Her smile made her eyes curve and become as beautiful as crescents. Compared to Mica, she stood tall and looked down on the other party.

Mica was immersed in the sweet feelings of love and being praised. Therefore, she overlooked the deeper meaning behind those words.

On the other hand, Sebastian felt a subtle change in his heart. He loved Mica for her naivete and cuteness. Even so, no man could resist being tempted by a woman like Tiana. A sense of humiliation struck his self-esteem, and he suddenly did not want to admit that he and Mica were dating for some inexplicable reason.

"I'm showing Mica around our school," Sebastian said, pretending to remain calm.

"Okay." Tiana nodded knowingly. It was just that her face all but wrote her mocking thoughts on the subject. Suddenly, her expression changed when she saw the gilded badge on Mica's clothes. Isn't that a badge from Tissote's Calligraphy Association? Ordinary members and senior members have blue and silver badges, respectively. This golden badge... is an identification only for S-rank members! Mica is an S-rank member of Tissote's Calligraphy Association!?

She was a Calligraphy Association member, but she was only an ordinary member. Even her teacher was only an A-rank member. I've only ever seen the president of the Calligraphy Association wearing an S-rank badge before. Just who is Mica?

She put on a calm expression and pretended to be surprised as she asked, "Miss Lynch, are you also a member of Tissote's Calligraphy Association?"

"Huh? Oh! You must be referring to this badge." Mica immediately understood the situation. She quickly waved her hands in denial and explained. "No. This is something one of my friends lent to me. She told me that this is the badge for prospective members of the Calligraphy Association. With this, I can enter the Calligraphy Association and ask the masters there to teach me calligraphy."

"Oh. I see." Tiana raised her chin slightly. It looks like this chubby girl doesn't know the origin of this badge.

"Um. Well, we still have other things to do and will be leaving now." But, Sebastian did not want to continue playing the role of Mica's lover in front of Tiana. So, he randomly created an excuse and quickly took Mica away.

Tiana remained standing there, watching the backs of those two departing figures with a deep gaze. Then, all of a sudden, a good idea popped into her head.

If I can pretend to be SQ's student and not be exposed, then it might not be difficult to pretend to be the apprentice of one of the S-level members of the Calligraphy Association. Besides, so many years have passed since those masters vanished out of sight. They probably died a long time ago. So there's no way for them to jump out of their coffins to expose my lies. As long as I have a token to prove my identity, I won't need to worry about outsiders not believing the lie.

She secretly affirmed the idea as she nodded to herself. Then, she quickly came back to her senses a moment later. There was work to do. Thus, she hurriedly increased her speed and walked out of the school.

According to the address she gave to the seller, she arrived at the area where the safety deposit boxes of Tissote Bank were located. She confirmed that there was nobody in the surrounding area before she used the password to open the safety deposit box and took out a scroll from within.

Once she unfurled the scroll, she confirmed that the words belonged to QH before she rolled the scroll up again. Afterward, she closed the safe and took a cab home. It was not until she placed those scrolls in the safety deposit box at home that she breathed a sigh of relief.

On the roof of a residential building near the villa, Julius monitored Tiana's every move through a pair of binoculars. At the same time, he dialed Elise's number.

"Boss, the buyer is Tiana, the person who pretended to be your student last time. But, unfortunately, she went straight home after retrieving the scrolls and did not meet anybody else, so I don't know her purpose."

"Got it. Follow her closely during this time," Elise said.

"Don't worry. There's nobody I cannot follow."

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That night, Tiana invited Sebastian to the school's small lake. This was a holy place for couples at Mayweather Polytechnic University. There would be couples cuddling together and kissing each other every two or three meters apart in summer.

Similarly, a certain level of relationship would be established through an unspoken consensus when a boy and a girl appeared here at the same time. This was precisely the illusion that Tiana wanted to give Sebastian.

When Sebastian arrived, Tiana was already sitting on the bench. It looked like she had been waiting for a while.

"Tiana," Sebastian called out nervously.

Tiana stood up when she heard his voice, revealing a pure and sweet smile. "We're already so familiar with each other. You can just call me Ana in the future."

He pursed his lips in excitement and swallowed nervously before mustering the courage to call out her name, "Ana."

He might have excellent grades, but his appearance was mediocre. He could never have imagined that he would be favored by the school idol, not even in his dreams. Therefore, his heart was beating as loudly as a drum.

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## **Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 660**

### Shitty Future!

Tiana saw through Sebastian being clumsy at a glance and the corners of her mouth lifted in a contemptuous arc. Then, she pretended to be innocent and asked, "Did it affect your date with Mica when I invited you out?"

At the mention of Mica, panic flashed through Sebastian's eyes, and he hurriedly explained, "Ana, don't misunderstand. I actually don't have that kind of relationship with Mica."

"I understand. Sebastian, you don't need to explain yourself," Tiana said softly. "You're such a good guy. I'm sure there are many girls who like you. Actually, I really admire Mica for being so bold."

She pursed her lips and pretended to lower her eyes shyly. Her long eyelashes moved as she blinked, making her seem so seductive that he fell into a state of confusion.

As he furrowed his eyebrows tightly, he looked at her with some regret. Does this mean that if I had not pursued Mica, then she would have gotten together with me? No wonder she always smiled when she talked to me during the Nationwide High School Know-All Competition. It turns out that she has been hinting her interest in me all this while. Unfortunately, I was just too stupid and missed out on such a great match. I've really failed to live up to her wishes.

"To be honest, you're an amazing person," he said with regret. "Mica and I are still just getting to know each other, so we might not progress into something deeper. Perhaps I have to go through some setbacks before I can get together with the person who is truly destined for me."

If Tiana is willing to wait, I will make it clear to Mica as soon as possible so that I can give her an answer.

When Tiana saw that her lure had hooked her prey, she anxiously tried to draw a clear line in their relationship. "Please don't misunderstand me. I do not wish to destroy your relationship. On the contrary, I'm sure that you and Mica will be together for a long time." After saying that, she suddenly sighed once more. "Perhaps, Mica is simply born with more luck than me. After all, she got together with you, Sebastian. Moreover, she has somebody who can provide her with a badge from the Calligraphy Association to enrich herself. I have nothing in comparison."

"You can do it too!" Sebastian blurted out. It was not until the words were out of his mouth that he realized how inappropriate they were, so he quickly tried to change his words. "Actually, there are many people who like you, Ana." Including me.

A trace of impatience flashed through her eyes. Does this person have an idiot's brain? Can't he get the main point after listening to what I said?

"Since you're already dating, I don't want to think about relationships anymore. I just want to find something to enrich myself and pass the time. I really like calligraphy, but it's a pity that I can't get a recommendation from others. How great would it be if I also had a badge?" Although she was speaking wistfully, she was actually muttering in her heart, I've already made it so obvious. He understands now, right?

"Do you like Mica's badge?" Sure enough, Sebastian had been fooled, but before Tiana could confirm, he voluntarily rushed to please her. "I'll ask Mica for the badge for you."

"That... can't be good..." She pretended to be reserved.

"There's nothing good or bad about it. In any case, Mica mentioned that she was just borrowing it to use, anyway. So, I'll spend a little more time with her later and lend you the badge to use first," he said firmly.

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"Alright then. I'll have to trouble you for that, Sebastian," she said affectionately.

"It's no trouble at all." He scratched the back of his head in embarrassment.

"Sebastian! Aren't you amazing! You even got hold of the school beauty!"

Then, one of his classmates walked by and deliberately made fun of them. This exchange greatly satisfied Sebastian's vanity and made him even more determined to clear the air between him and Mica. Otherwise, Tiana would be sad if she was forced to wait for too long.

Now that Elise was getting more popular, the endorsements she received had weakened one's hand from sorting through them. Winona had no choice but to bring her work to school where she found an empty classroom to have a face-to-face discussion with Elise. Be that as it may, the so-called discussion was just Elise nodding or shaking her head. The jobs that received a nod were jobs that she accepted while they passed on the jobs that received a shake of her head.

One hour passed. The documents were still piled high like a mountain on the table with no end in sight.

Elise suddenly felt a sense of irritation that came from nowhere. Leaning against the table, she looked at Winona and changed the topic.

"Miss Jennings, you are buried in work every single day. Don't you get annoyed? Don't you want to meet your boyfriend?"

"My boyfriend? If you didn't mention him, I would have already forgotten that he existed." Winona pushed her glasses up the bridge of her nose without even looking up. "Working people have no time for love. Besides, he has recently accepted several commercial appearances. He is probably so busy that his eyes are spinning, like me. So, where would we find the time to go on a date?"

"No matter how busy you are, you should have the time for a phone call or a video call every day," Elise said meaningfully.

"Elise, we are different from you. You are so amazing and talented, but we are just ordinary people. If we want to gain a foothold in this cruel society, then when else are we supposed to work hard, if not now? As long as Craig has me in his heart, it doesn't matter whether we chat or call each other every day," Winona explained seriously.

Elise opened her mouth, trying to guide Winona into considering some other factors. At that moment, a knock sounded on the door behind her. Knock. Knock.

The two turned around and saw Jack walking in with a cake.

"Your afternoon tea is here!" he said while walking in. "Beautiful ladies, you should take a quick break."

Elise turned and mysteriously whispered something in Winona's ear. "Look. If you really want to see somebody, you will definitely find a way to do it."

Winona looked innocent. "Okay. Okay. Mr. Jack is so nice to you!"

Elise was confused. "Was that what I was trying to say?"

#### • • •

"Isn't it? Oh, don't be bothered by such minor details." Winona patted Elise on the arm. Then, she stood up and naturally took the two slices of cake from Jake. "Thank you, Mr. Jack. Which one is sweeter?"

"The one on your left," he replied gently.

"Oh! Hehe..." Winona handed the plate in her right hand over to Elise. She took the sweeter portion and sat down further away to give them space.

Elise shook her head and sighed. How did this silly girl grow to reach this age?

When she looked up, she saw that Jake's gaze had followed Winona around unabashedly. Yet, his gaze was so gentle that one could squeeze water out of his eyes.

'Stop looking." Elise poked him in the stomach. "She is taken."

"What are you saying, Elise..." Jack feigned ignorance.

"Do you not understand? Fine. Then, let me be clearer. Winona has a boyfriend. Do you understand now?" She deliberately spoke eloquently on this subject. "The man's name is Craig Baker. They are classmates, colleagues, and first loves. Some people might never have a chance..."

The smile stiffened on his face, but he quickly composed his emotions again. Then, he pretended to be indifferent and stubbornly replied, "I see. That Craig is such an unlucky guy. He will probably go broke from trying to feed her."

"That's true." Elise deliberately revealed the truth. "How much savings can a trainee have? It's no wonder he keeps it a secret from her that he entertains various rich ladies. But, that's not important. Craig is only doing such things to give Winona a better future."

"That's a shitty future!" Jack exclaimed furiously for no apparent reason. "He doesn't even have the dignity of a man anymore; what future is there to talk about!?"

The corners of Elise's mouth lifted almost imperceptibly before she teased, "They are a young couple in love. Why are you getting so agitated? This is an arrangement of mutual consent. One is willing to throw the punch and the other is willing to be hit. Do you understand?"

"I'm not agitated." His expression was dark, and his voice was icy. "I just remembered that I have a commercial to shoot in the afternoon. Bye."

After he said that, he turned to leave. Even when he passed by the door and Winona greeted him, he ignored her and did not respond.

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