# **Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 687**

### Coolest Girl in TownChapter 687 Definitely a Pay Raise!

"All the best! Let's celebrate together when you come out," Malia said lightly.

Tiana pursed her lips and smiled when she heard that, and she silently agreed.

She knew that Malia was smittened by her, but she was unwilling to give up her pride to confess her feelings. Hence, the two kept silent and continued maintaining this ambiguous relationship.

Sure enough, Tiana did not care. This way, she could stay single all the time.

There were 20 finalists in total and several people had already lined up in front of them. When she saw this, she naturally walked to the end of the line and stood graciously.

With exquisite facial features, Tiana was a standard beautiful girl and looked like your typical preppy girl. In addition to her inadvertently showing a bit of arrogance and self-confidence, she instantly attracted the attention of many people.

Inside the car, Malia and Cody got off and waited.

Just as they stood still, a reporter approached them. The reporter pointed to Talia and interviewed Cody, "Are you guys Tiana Hill's family members? I heard that Miss Hill's calligraphy skills are now comparable to that of QH from back then. Talents are cultivated from childhood indeed!"

Cody raised his chin proudly when he heard that. He could not help but lift the corners of his lips slightly, yet he pretended to be cold and indifferent. "You made a mistake. I'm Tiana's teacher, not her parents."

"Oh my! It's actually the teacher of the next QH! I apologize for being disrespectful. Sir, can I ask you something quietly? All these heads of association of the branch of the Calligraphy Association attended the evaluation today for Miss Hill's sake, am I right?" the reporter asked in curiosity.

At that moment, Cody felt that this person was chatty. Even so, he did not want to miss this opportunity to show off. Therefore, he replied arrogantly by saying, "If it's not for her sake, do you think there is anyone else who is worthy of their travels and troubles?"

"Yeah, you're right. The next QH's reputation is well-known. She will definitely be evaluated well today. But, Sir, you must put a few good words for me in front of Miss Hill when the results are out. Give me a chance for an exclusive interview, please..." The reporter pleaded, sounding somewhat like a sycophant. Shortly after, he handed over a Sobranie brand cigarette that he was usually reluctant to smoke due to how expensive it was.

Cody pushed the cigarette back to the reporter after giving it a quick glance with a pretense of arrogance. Yet, he did not reject the reporter's suggestion. "We shall see the situation. Just like me, my student never liked to be in the limelight. I'll let her talk to you if there's a chance."

"A few words are enough! It's really enough! Thank you, Sir! Sir, why don't you come and sit in my car for a while? I bought the best fruit."

The reporter was overjoyed and so happy that he couldn't stop grinning like a fool.

I'm a freaking genius. I won't have to worry about not getting that headline now that I have managed to land a deal with the next QH's teacher! There's definitely a pay raise for me this time!

On the other side, most reporters guarded the Calligraphy Association's gate. They were taking pictures of the contestants who participated in the evaluation. Some of the staff members of the Calligraphy Association were also maintaining orders. The scene was boisterous and noisy.

At this moment, a luxury car slowly stopped at the main entrance of the Calligraphy Association.

The door of the car opened, and a girl with a slender figure slowly got out of the car.

Elise wore a floral princess dress and a pair of white shoes. She looked both youthful and ethereal and immediately attracted most people's attention.

Alexander followed closely behind her and got out of the car.

He stood together with Elise in matching outfits with a handsome face and a straightbacked figure. The two completely portrayed the traditional ideology of a perfect couple.

Fastening the last button of his suit jacket, Alexander then took Elise's hand and walked over to line up.

Even the staff could not help but take a look at such a perfect couple.

At the intersection in the distance, two teenagers trotted toward them at this moment.

"Boss!"

"Boss!"

Both Sheldon and Elliot came over to cheer her on as they knew Elise would have her calligraphy evaluation session today.

"All the best, Boss! With us here, you'll definitely win!" Sheldon cheered.

"Well then, I shall wish you to be successfully rated as first-class!" Elliot said.

"Do you even understand how the evaluation system works? The highest rating for the Calligraphy Association is the S-Class rating. First-class, second-class, I think you're more like a third-class retard!" Sheldon reprimanded, still as sarcastic as always.

"Hey! I dare you to say it again!" In an instant, Elliot widened his big eyes in anger.

"That's enough, you two." Elise hurriedly became the peacemaker. "Those who didn't know might think that you two are here to fight me. So, it's fine that you come to cheer me on, but behave!"

Only then did the two stop fighting.

However, those reporters had already recognized Elise at this time. So all the candid shots they were focusing on Tiana now landed on Elise.

In fact, some even fearless reporters wanted to get close to interview Elise. However, they retreated weakly after getting frightened by the domineering aura emitted by Alexander.

Even so, Elise successfully attracted everyone's attention.

Tiana's face, who was in the front, darkened when she realized the situation. After that, her facial expression became gradually more awful.

Not long after, Alexander answered the phone and looked distressed.

"Did something happen to your business?" Elise asked keenly.

"A minor problem came up, and my workers don't know how to solve it," Alexander answered truthfully.

"Then, you can leave first. You can't go in with me anyway. It's enough to have Sheldon and the others with me here," Elise said thoughtfully.

Alexander looked at Sheldon and Elliot, then frowned slightly as he doubted their abilities.

"Mr. Griffith, don't you worry!" Sheldon pulled Elliot to his front and patted his chest promptly. "Do you see this? Look at how strong his muscles are!"

Meanwhile, Elliot was also very cooperative as he raised his hands and showed his biceps.

Alexander let out a long sigh, then looked at Elise in resignation. "Well then, call me anytime if you need my help. Don't be afraid to trouble me."

"Got it! Now go," Elise urged as she pushed him twice. Only then did Alexander turn around and left reluctantly.

The rules of the Calligraphy Association were very troublesome. They required the contestant to enter one by one. It was the next person's turn only after the examiners completed the evaluation session for the previous contestant.

Yet it took them 10 to 20 minutes to evaluate a contestant.

Elise was the last in line, and the afternoon sun was glaring even though only half of the contestants in front of her went in.

"Boss, why don't you wait under the big shady tree next to you? You'll get sunburn at this rate," Sheldon said.

Elise was getting a little hot, so she nodded and went over with Sheldon.

There was a circle of cement fences under the tree. Although they looked clean, there was still some dust on them. Hence, Sheldon directly took off his coat and laid it down. "Have a seat here, Boss."

Elise helped herself, sat down, and teased, "Wow, Sheldon. You're more of a gentleman than your brother. Could it be that you have a girlfriend?"

"Girlfriend? What's that? Never heard of it. I'm fine as long as I can serve you, Boss," Sheldon said with a smile.

"Such a glib tongue." Elise shook her head and ignored him. Then, she took out her phone, contacted Julius, and asked him to help her discover what had happened to Alexander.

If it wasn't for Danny, Alexander might have kept the food poisoning incident under wraps. I don't want to be passive anymore.

Sheldon did not dare to disturb her when he noticed that Elise had something on her mind. So instead, he took advantage of Elliot's inattentiveness and took off his jacket. Then, Sheldon directly stuffed it under his butt and sat next to Elise.

"You b\*stard! I just bought this new coat last night!"

I was planning to meet Stephanie in that outfit! Just like that, the two immediately started getting into a brawl.

At the same time, Andy, who was in the Calligraphy Association, received a call from the guard.

"Mr. Nixon, the young lady that you had mentioned, seems to have arrived. She's sitting under the big tree at the door!"

"I got it." Andy hung up the phone and looked solemnly at the fellow heads of associations in the room.

"She's here. I'll go pick her up."

"We'll go with you!"

## **Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 688**

Coolest Girl in TownChapter 688 Anything Is Fine

After the person in front of Tiana entered, Andy just happened to come out with a group of elders in suits and leather shoes.

Tiana fixed her hair and greeted him with a smile, "Mr. Nixon."

Andy tilted his head, glanced at her, and replied with a mere hum. Then, he turned his face and looked away. Then, he moved his feet as he walked toward Elise and the others.

When Tiana saw she had been wholly regarded as a nobody, her facial expression changed again, and it looked extremely nasty.

Meanwhile, Sheldon and Elliot were playing 'Dead Battleground' online. When the game reached the most critical moment, they suddenly felt something shrouding the top of their heads, and their phone screens were covered.

And thus, the two of them looked up at the same time, only to realize a group of elders surrounded them at some point. These elders were all staring at Elise with flattering smiles on their faces.

Not to mention, their gazes looked precisely like a wolf that saw its prey.

"What are you guys trying to do?!" Without a second thought, Sheldon abruptly rose to his feet and stood in front of Elise.

"Young man, you must be Miss Sinclair's younger brother. Just like a young hero, outstanding, tall, powerful, and handsome," Andy said as he tried to curry favor with them.

At first, Sheldon got carried away with the flattering words and was complacent. However, he returned to his senses and regained his resolute position instantly. "Alright, that's enough. I stand firm on my ground, so don't try to corrupt me with sweet words. With me here, no one can hurt Elise!"

"Hehe... I'm sure nothing will happen to Miss Sinclair with you protecting her. But young man, you might have misunderstood. We're here to pick Miss Sinclair up for her evaluation session," Andy said with a smile.

"Pick her up?" Sheldon looked at them suspiciously and obviously doubted the credibility of Andy's words. "Don't all contestants have to line up for the evaluation session? Are you meaning to tell me that you're preparing to bring our Boss to cut the line?"

"Only by giving her the green light can we highlight the importance of someone as talented as Miss Sinclair to us," Andy said solemnly.

"It does sound a little logical." Sheldon nodded, somewhat confused. But, in his opinion, Elise deserved this kind of treatment.

However, Elise did not want to receive any special treatments.

"Let's just follow the rules," Elise said, "It's unfair to the other contestants if I cut the line. Moreover, I don't want to cause trouble and unexpectedly crop up a new problem because I cut the line."

"Sure, sure. Whatever you say, Miss Sinclair. All of us will accompany you and wait in line with you." Andy was still fawning on Elise.

"Yes, yes, yes! Let's all wait together!" Then, behind them, the other heads of the branch of the Calligraphy Association expressed their opinions, one after another.

There were even some who were very exaggerated in showing their hospitality toward Elise."What are you doing still standing there? It's so sunny outside. Why don't you hurry up and find a parasol for Miss Sinclair?!"

"Yes, yes. Oh, and get a few more fans over too. We don't want Miss Sinclair to feel hot, do we?"

"Where's the water? Where's the ice cream? Is there any fruit? Girls should eat more fruit! Fruits are good for their skins! No fruits? Go and buy them!"

...." Elise was speechless. "Mr. Nixon, are you sure your friends aren't a bit too much?"

"It is a bit exaggerated." Andy nodded solemnly. Immediately after, he asked earnestly, "Or do you prefer milk tea instead?"

When Elise heard that, she was utterly exasperated. "Forget it. There's no need for that. Just let it be."

"Okay, please don't be too formal with me. Feel free to let us know if you have any demands. We will definitely satisfy them. If there's one thing that the Calligraphy Association does best, it's that we pay 100% attention to talents. So, you'll know when you come back and join us!" Andy always never forgot to advertise for the Calligraphy Association.

Elise tugged at the corners of her lips and let out an awkward laugh when she heard that. However, she did not answer him.

Not long after, Tiana finished her evaluation and walked out of the Calligraphy Association's building.

A sharp-eyed reporter gathered around her for an interview.

"Miss Hill, how's your evaluation this time?"

Tiana smiled shyly, brushed the loose hair behind her ear, and pretended to be reserved. "There's a minor improvement compared to last year. But I only received an A-Class Rating."

"A-Rating! Most of the heads of the association had this ability as well! Miss Hill, you truly are young and promising!" the reporter exclaimed in amazement.

Tiana pursed her lips into a smile but did not answer.

At the same time, both Cody and Malia stepped forward to congratulate Tiana.

"I knew you could definitely do it." Malia smiled lightly.

"You did a good job." Cody showed his attitude as a teacher and did not forget to admonish her, "Keep up the good work. Next year, you will be able to surpass me."

"Yeah! I will do my best." Tiana nodded obediently.

At this moment, Andy and a group of elders escorted Elise past them and entered the Calligraphy Association's building.

"As expected of a talented girl such as H, she actually receives so much attention from the heads of association of each major Calligraphy Association," the reporter said emotionally.

When Tiana heard the truth, her facial expression instantly turned awful.

"Mr. Carlson, I'm a little tired. Let's go back first."

After making a random excuse, she left with Cody and the others.

Since I showed up on the same occasion as Elise, I was destined to be robbed of the limelight. So why should I make myself unwelcome?

#### • • •

Elise entered the classroom, where she would be evaluated under the escort of several heads of the association.

Someone had placed a piece of calligraphy on a one-meter-long square table in the classroom.

That was Elise's entry for the Calligraphy Contest.

Elise narrowed her eyes at it, then adjusted her breathing slightly.

Andy walked over first. He took the work in his hand and admired it. "It's really the work of a genius. Even if QH is here, the master will be stunned for a while when he stumbled upon such great calligraphy skill."

"I have much to improve on," Elise said calmly.

Meanwhile, Sheldon and Elliot were also as calm as a millpond. They were not surprised at all. It's not surprising how many skills a woman who controlled Cittadel's largest gaming and e-sports company at this age possesses.

Andy felt gratified as he raised the corners of his lips into a smile. He was delighted with Elise's calm and collected composure.

In the meantime, the other heads of the association also exchanged glances and secretly expressed their affirmation of Elise.

If one wishes to succeed in calligraphy, the first and foremost is to be able to control their own minds and emotions.

"Okay, let's get down to business." Andy adjusted his state and said solemnly, "Miss Sinclair, although the pre-evaluation is a bit redundant for you, we still have to go through the process. You can simply write another one and let us evaluate it."

"Yes, sir." Elise nodded.

At once, some staff delivered her the pen, paper, and inkstone.

Elise walked over and picked up the calligraphy pen. Then, after she flattened the rice paper, she asked slowly, "Which font should I use?"

"Which font are you good at, Miss Sinclair?" Andy's eyes lit up.

Elise frowned slightly when she heard the question. Then, after she gave it a good thought, she said perplexedly, "Anything is fine."

It's a hassle to make choices.

The entire classroom was silent for a moment, and the heads of association all cast their shocked gazes on her.

After a long time, Andy forced himself to calm down. He restrained his excitement and gave advice. "How about you write two words in each font?"

Elise nodded slightly, yet a trace of a quandary look flashed in her beautiful eyes. Then, she pinched her chin as she looked at the rice paper on the table.

It's just one meter. It's not enough for me to write at all. How about I write it a little smaller? No, I can't do that! The soft pen is all about momentum. The smaller the writing, the less momentum it has.

### **Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 689**

### Coolest Girl in TownChapter 689 Are You Still a Human?

Andy misunderstood Elise's stance and thought she was under pressure, so he took the initiative and said, "It's also fine if you can write in two or three fonts."

It was admirable enough for a calligrapher to be able to reach the pinnacle of the font they mastered in their life.

To Andy, being able to write in two or three calligraphic fonts was like being able to decipher astronomical numbers in the eyes of others.

"If that's the case, can I have a change of rice paper three times longer than this one?" Elise requested.

"T-Three times?!" Andy swallowed his saliva nervously, and he widened his eyes in disbelief.

If she writes two characters for one font, how many calligraphic fonts does she have to write in a paper that's three times as long?!

"Mr. Nixon, what are you doing? Hurry up and have someone prepare the rice paper!" one of the heads of the association urged eagerly.

"Huh? Oh yes, yes! Hurry up! Go to the warehouse and fetch her the rice paper!"

After a while, the staff came back with a rice paper that was three times as long. Then, they dragged in two more tables and spread the rice paper on top of the tables.

Elise stepped forward and wrote the first line of words without hesitation.

The first calligraphic font she wrote was the regular script. Shortly after, the vigorous strokes in calligraphy could be seen on the paper.

Next, she started writing the official script. Her handwriting was lively and firm as she wrote with well-defined and fascinating strokes.

Lastly, she wrote the cursive script. Her cursive strokes were elegant and grandiose.

• •

The mouths of everyone present went from tightly closed to showing jaw-dropping expressions on their faces, and saying that they were all dumbfounded would be an understatement of the century.

Until Elise placed her calligraphy pen down and returned to her spot, the entire room was still immersed in her writing momentum. Even the examiners present weren't able to regain their senses after a long time.Meanwhile, she had filled the rice paper on the table with various calligraphic fonts. As a result, there was no extra space on the paper, and not a single word written was superfluous. In fact, it could be regarded as perfect.

Up to this moment, she has vividly displayed the fonts of all the great calligraphers on the rice paper.

The rice paper that was three times as long could not even carry Elise's rich artistry background!

In the meantime, Andy was so thrilled that his eyes welled up in tears. How many years has it been? I thought I would never be able to witness such talent until the day I died!

Even Sheldon and Elliot, who was utterly clueless, were completely filled with admiration for her yet again.

"Boss, are you still human?"

How can anyone be so good at everything?

Elise clapped her hands, stood aside a little, and left her spot. "I'm done writing. Please evaluate me."

Andy, as well as the other heads of association of the Calligraphy Association, all went speechless.

Evaluate? Which one of us here is qualified enough to evaluate you?

"Are you guys not going to evaluate?" Elise urged.

"Uh..." For a moment, Andy was at a loss for words.

He urged Elise to show up for this evaluation session before because he simply felt that it might already have been her extraordinary performance when she wrote the word 'forbearance'. Even if she wrote it slightly less perfect, I can give her either a B-Class or A-Class rating. At least I can still have my pride and accept her as my own student. But now, her calligraphy level is far beyond S-Class Rating. None of us can surpass this, so how can we evaluate it?

"I think it's better to let Lorenzo evaluate you on the day of the Calligraphy Contest. What do you say, Miss Sinclair?" he respectfully asked Elise's opinion.

"It's fine with me." After all, she simply came over as a mere formality. As soon as her evaluation was over, she walked out.

Halfway through her tracks, she turned back and asked, "Does this mean there's no ranking for my evaluation today?"

After a pause, she added, "That's right. Let's just announce that to the public and leave some suspense for the finals."

"Miss Sinclair, we will carry out your order!" Andy agreed promptly

With Elise joining us, she will definitely restore the Calligraphy Association to its former glory. It will be announced regardless. As long as Elise is happy, there's no difference if we announce it sooner or later.

### Since Cody and Andy were at odds, he did not participate in Elise's evaluation.

However, he still could not hold back his curiosity. In the evening, he eventually called one of the heads of the Calligraphy Association, Arnold Torres, whom he knew, and asked about the evaluation result.

"Arnold, what's the potential of the student that Andy discovered?" Cody asked, getting straight to the point.

"Why, you little... I thought you're not interested?" The man joked with him. "We're all in the same association. Are you and Andy seriously planning to stop talking to each other for the rest of your lives?!"

"If you don't wish to tell me, keep silent. Why did you mention him out of the blue? That's it. I'm hanging up!" Cody said arrogantly.

"Fine. Fine. Still, playing hard-to-get in front of me? Let me tell you: that girl did not receive any ratings for her evaluation." Arnold did not tell him the truth as he wanted to surprise him.

"No rating? What do you mean? There must be a rating for S, A, B, or C." Cody expressed his doubts. "Arnold, tell me the truth. What's her rating?"

"Look at you. You don't even believe me anymore." The man on the other end of the phone laughed heartily. "The truth is the girl didn't receive a rank. Ask the others if you don't believe me!"

Since Arnold had made his words clear, Cody had no choice but to give up.

Cody hung up the phone, leaned against the balcony fence, and went deep into his thoughts.

Could it be that Andy was wrong this time? He picked up a student who couldn't even get a passing score. Could it be that he eventually realized it when he evaluated her on the spot and disqualified her from getting evaluated? It seems that only in this way can everything be explained.

Cody showed a mocking smile on his face when he thought of this possibility.

Andy, Andy, there are times when you even fail through your miscalculation. Of course, as expected, one should retire and take care of their grandchildren when they're old. But, who asked you to occupy the position of the assistant head of the association and not retire? Now, you have become everyone's laughing stock. Andy, you're truly losing your skills in your old age.

The more Cody thought about it, the more excited he became. He immediately called Tiana to share the good news with her.

After she ended the call, Tiana looked at the 'Sonnet 18' that she was practicing and started taking shape. Finally, she could not help but show a triumphant look on her face.

I knew it! No one is perfect. God will eventually close a door for Elise! This time, I'll definitely be the champion of the Calligraphy Contest!

• • •

Alexander saw the house was in a total mess when he entered the door after rushing to a villa in the suburbs.

Clearly, Jacob's laboratory had experienced considerable looting. Someone had stolen all the vital information and destroyed the critical equipment. Even Jacob himself had disappeared.

"He was kidnapped in the morning, and the bodyguards we arranged around the house were all killed." Johnny stepped forward and analyzed the situation solemnly. "Our men have always been well-trained. But according to the examination status of their corpses, it looks like they didn't resist their killer. So, the other party obviously has ill-intention."

Alexander's eyes were gloomy, and the tone in his voice was weary and heavy. "Got it.

He fixed his gaze on the safe after giving the ruined house a quick glance.

As expected, the safe had been pried open, and all the human skin masks that Jacob kept inside had been taken away.

Alexander let out a long sigh and tightly furrowed his eyebrows when he realized this.

These people have kidnapped Jacob, so there's bound to be a bigger conspiracy they have planned. And the masks that Elise and I wore were all kept in Jacob's records. If the other party pretends to be us and does terrible things outside, provoking the enemy, then both Elise and I will be in an even more dangerous situation.

It seems like I need to reveal my identity to Elise as soon as possible. However, Elise's safety comes first despite the possible disintegration of our relationship.

At that moment, Alexander felt a strong sense of unease in his heart. Who the hell was this person who could kidnap Jacob away from under my nose without anyone realizing it?

**Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 690** 

### Coolest Girl in TownChapter 690 Had a Fling a Long Time Ago

Recently, Craig's life was terrible. First and foremost, one after another, the wealthy women blocked him. After that, his company had directly suppressed him and inexplicably canceled all his commercial activities.

Of course, he knew that Jack was the one behind all these acts.

However, Craig was not at all anxious and instead felt at ease while becoming a 'househusband'. He stayed home, ate, drank, and enjoyed himself on a daily basis. The only outdoor activity that he had was to get some food for Winona at a nearby restaurant.

Unfortunately, he was so used to living a lavish lifestyle that all of his savings were gone. Therefore, he naturally set his target on Winona.

On this day, Craig came to Winona with a lunch box as per usual. When he watched her eat the food, he pretended to speak casually, "Uh... Winona, can you lend me your credit card first? The company still hasn't paid me and my money has almost dried up. It's fine if it's just me, but I have to cook for you every day—"

When she heard that, she immediately grabbed her purse and took out one of her credit cards. However, just when she was about to hand it over, she suddenly remembered something and deliberately slowed down her movement.

"Craig, there's one thing I don't understand. What happened between you and Mr. Jack? Why did you two get into a fight as soon as you met?"

"Why else? Jack saw that I was younger than him and had received a lot of attention. So, out of his jealousy toward the juniors, he intentionally targeted me." At the mention of Jack, Craig pulled a long face and looked annoyed.

"Why do you say so? Mr. Jack is a good person who has even helped me a lot before. He's not the kind of person who would do such a thing." Winona was puzzled.

"So, what do you mean to tell me?" Craig asked expressionlessly, "Do you think I'm the one at fault? Do you think I'm the one who purposely slandered him and tried to damage his reputation? Winona, who's your boyfriend exactly?"

"Of course it's you!" She did not expect him to be triggered this much. Hence, she hurriedly explained, "I didn't mean that. I simply think that making a friend is better than making an enemy. If you can find out the source of the problem, maybe we can eliminate this animosity between the both of you. You know that it's better to make friends than enemies in our industry." "Oh, come on!" Craig derisively dismissed her thoughts. "I don't care if I have offended a hypocrite like him. So, what's the big deal?"

At that note, he paused again. Then, he looked at Winona with suspicion. "Could it be that you have feelings for him?"

"Craig!" At once, Winona became serious. "Can you stop acting in such a childish manner?!"

"Oh, I see. So, are you going to despise me for being immature now?" A triggered Craig rose to his feet. "I see; this is why you've been standing up for him all this while! You guys hooked up a long time ago and are playing me for a fool, right?!"

He almost roared out the last words of his argument. She had never seen him act this way before, so she was utterly shocked and stunned for a whole two seconds. Is this still the kind boy with a sunny personality that I fell in love with? Why do I suddenly feel like he's a complete stranger?

After he vented his anger, he suddenly regained his composure. The only person I can rely on now is Winona. If we split up now, won't that mean ruining my own chances? There's no way I will go down like this.

In a flash, Craig calmed himself down before he went over to try to pull Winona's hand to coax her. "Winona, I'm sorry. I've been under too much pressure during this period, so I don't know what has gotten into me to say those words. Trust me. I didn't mean it..."

Even so, Winona reflexively avoided him a second before he could hold her hand.

After that, she put the credit card on the table. Then, she turned around and let the tears of disappointment roll down her cheeks. "Why don't we both calm down for a while?"

He parted his lips in an attempt to ease the atmosphere, but he could only give up when he saw that she had no intention to continue the conversation.

After a moment of silence, he took the credit card and left in shame.

Winona waited until the sound of the footsteps had completely disappeared. Then, she wiped the tears off on her face and let out a long sigh. Next, she took out her phone and made a call to Elise. "Elise, I want to take a half-day off to deal with some personal matters."

Elise knew Winona had finally woken up from her situation when she received the call. Therefore, she did not stop Winona and instead readily agreed to the request. "I'll give you a week off. So, don't push yourself too hard. It's fine if you also return to work after two days of rest." "No, a half-day off is enough." Winona was an ambitious person. Since it was hard to gain Elise's approval, she wanted to live up to her expectations.

"As long as you know what you're doing."

Elise hurriedly hung up the phone call as she knew that she would overstep her boundaries if she continued the conversation.

. . .

Winona directly took a taxi and arrived at Jack's studio in the afternoon.

Then, she knocked on the office door before his moderate voice sounded. "Come in."

She pushed open the door when she heard that and entered.

Jack was playing games on the sofa, but when he looked up and saw it was her, he instinctively put away his phone. "What brings you here?"

As he spoke, he rose to his feet and opened the refrigerator. "What do you want to drink? Juice or mineral water? Or, do you want a light dessert? It just so happened that Ronald bought too much today."

"It's unnecessary." Winona behaved politely as she walked in and formally stood at a distance away.

At once, he noticed something was off. Thus, he could not help but be serious. "Is there something you want to discuss with me?"

"Yes." She nodded her head firmly.

With that, Jack had no choice but to close the refrigerator, walk over, and sit on the sofa. Then, he raised his hand and gestured for her not to be so restrained. "Why don't you have a seat?"

"Thank you, Mr. Jack." Winona bowed before she walked to the two-seater couch next to her to take a seat.

Although he did not want to admit it, he immediately deduced her intention. "You're here because of Craig, aren't you? Are you here to intercede for him?" Winona is a manager, and there are no secrets in this industry. She should have learned the news about me publicly banning Craig.

She didn't deny this when she heard his statement. "Yes, but I'm not here to apologize."

"So, do you think I'm trying to intentionally find fault with him?" Jack asked in a selfdeprecating demeanor.

Winona shook her head and replied, "Mr. Jack, I know you do not care about such things. Hence, I came to understand one thing: what actually happened between the both of you?"

All this while, the Winona in Jack's eyes was adorable and innocent. Today, when he saw her serious demeanor, he suddenly remembered that she also took charge as a manager for A-listed celebrities. Winona is no fool. It is because she trusts Craig that she is kept in the dark.

However, it was precisely because of this very reason that Jack could not bear to be so cruel. I can't let her know how despicable the person she's in love with is, so I can only choose to force Craig to leave voluntarily. This way, I can guarantee that Winona won't be too hurt in the long run.

"What did Craig say?" Jack asked rhetorically.

"He—His condition is not looking good during this period of time. I can't ask anything out of him, so I thought of coming here to ask for your help." Winona was unwilling to rant about Craig behind his back. "I think we can be considered as friends, and friends should be honest with each other. Am I right?"

Friend. Such a burdensome word.

At that moment, Jack felt his heart sink abruptly as he became extremely uncomfortable.