

LLDP 161-170

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“Really?” Georgia asked with a faint smile.

Jared’s voice was cold and firm. “Of course! I’ve said this before. I did not and will not regret it.”

“Oh? I see.” Georgia nodded and said nothing more.

But in the heart, she didn’t buy that at all.

Hoped that he would not have a slap in the face in the future.

“By the way, I hope you won’t tell anyone about our conversation today, especially that Makenna and the Gardner family. Understand?” Georgia looked at Jared with a warning look.

Jared replied, “I know. I won’t say anything. I promised Amber that I wouldn’t help the Gardner family, so I won’t say anything more to them”

“That’s good. Then you...” Before she could finish her words, Georgia suddenly saw the bag of herbal tea at the table beside. “Amber forgot about the tea.”

Jared’s eyes lit up.

In fact, Jared knew from the very beginning that Amber had forgotten to take the tea, but he didn’t remind her.

“Quick, send them over. Amber should have just left the hospital.” Georgia stuffed the bag into Jared’s arms and urged him to give it to Amber as soon as possible.

Jared agreed, but as soon as he left the ward, he gave the tea to the passing medical staff.

At this time, Amber was still waiting for the taxi outside the hospital.

Suddenly, a strong smell of beef came from the restaurant opposite the road.

Amber's expression changed drastically when she smelt that, and she felt disgusted.

She quickly covered her mouth, walked to the flower bed next to her, and leaned over to vomit.

However, she didn't puke out anything but a few mouthfuls of sour water.

Amber knew that this was a pregnancy reaction. If she smelled something too greasy or too strong, she would immediately feel like vomiting.

Again! After a while, the feeling came back.

Amber bent down again and vomited. Her face was pale and sweat was oozing from her forehead, which showed how uncomfortable she was.

As soon as Jared came out, he saw this scene. He went to the supermarket next to him with a tense face and bought a bottle of water. Then he walked behind her and asked, "Are you alright?"

He quickly unscrewed the cap and handed the water to her.

Amber didn't want to take it, but when she felt the sour taste in her mouth, she accepted it.

Amber rinsed her mouth twice. After the sour taste in her mouth was gone, she began to drink the water.

After drinking a few mouthfuls of water, she finally felt much better. Then she breathed a sigh of relief.

“I’m fine. Thank you for your water. I’ll give the money to you.” Amber was about to take out her phone as she spoke.

Jared’s face darkened. “It’s just a bottle of water. You don’t have to.”

“No. I can’t accept others’ kindness for no reason.” Seeing that Jared didn’t take out his phone, Amber opened her wallet and took out her cash.

“These are for the water and the drive.” Amber stuffed a large-denomination bill into Jared’s hand.

Jared’s face looked stern. “Amber, are you so eager to cut off any relation with me?”

Amber looked at him strangely and said, “Isn’t it good to leave it clean? We are not together now. To put it bluntly, I have nothing to do with you. So, no one owes anyone. Isn’t that good?”

Jared was speechless. He clenched his fists.

Yes, they were two merely strangers now.

She was right to do this, but he was very unhappy.

“Okay, Mr. Farrell. I’ll go first.” Regardless of what Jared was thinking, Amber put the cap back on the bottle and walked past him, wanting to return to her previous position and continue waiting for a taxi.

However, as soon as she took two steps, Amber felt dizzy and her body swayed.

Jared strode forward and stopped her from falling. “What’s wrong?”

He frowned; his eyes filled with nervousness.

Amber hesitated for a moment and thought that it was her own imagination.

However, she blinked twice and looked again. When she found that Jared was still nervous, she was very surprised.

He was actually concerned about her?

Was he crazy or was there something wrong with this world?

"I'm fine." Amber shook her head and pulled out her arm.

Jared looked at her pale face and said, "You were about to faint. That's fine to you?"

"I'm really fine. It's just low blood sugar." Amber said.

When she was pregnant last time, the doctor said that she had hypoglycemia, and it was easy for her to feel dizzy.

This was something that most pregnant women had. There was nothing unusual about it.

"Really?" Jared was still a little worried.

Amber answered, "Yes, it's true."

"What should you pay attention to low blood sugar?" Jared asked again.

Amber sneered. "Mr. Farrell, I'm not Miss Gardner. I'm afraid it's inappropriate for you to care about me so much."

Jared pursed his thin lips and said, "I just don't want grandma to be sad. If anything happens to you, grandma will be worried."

Hearing this, Amber adjusted her expression and sighed. "Well, in fact, I don't need to pay attention to anything. I just need to replenish blood and sugar at any time."

"How?" Jared stared at her.

Amber tilted her head, with a hint of uncertainty on her exquisite face. "Maybe just eat some sugar?"

Jared's thin lips curled slightly. "I thought you knew."

"I'm not a doctor, how could I know? Forget it, why I tell you this? I'm leaving." Amber waved her hand and was about to leave again.

However, Jared picked her up before she could even walk.

Amber was stunned at first, but then her face turned red and she struggled. "Jared, what are you doing? Put me down!"

Jared held her tightly and walked to the car. "I'll send you back."

"I don't want you to send me off. I'll take a taxi by myself. Let me go." Amber's legs kept kicking in the air, and her arms were also pushing Jared's chest with force.

With her struggling, Jared almost couldn't hold Amber. He said crossly, "If you keep moving, you'll fall. Do you know the consequences of that?"

Jared looked down at her.

Looking into Jared's deep-set eyes, Amber subconsciously quieted down and said in a daze, "What do you mean? Do you know...?"

"If you fall off, you may get your head hurt. Tomorrow is the date of announcing the new energy project partners. Do you want to miss it because of injury?" Jared interrupted her.

Amber pursed her lips.

Seriously? He worried that she would get hurt?

She thought he had known that she was pregnant. After all, even Cole didn't know. If Jared knew, it would be outrageous.

"If you let me go, I won't fall then." Amber said with an expressionless face.

Jared didn't reply.

He knew that she would not get in his car obediently, so he used this method.

How could he let go of her? After that, she would definitely leave again.

Soon, Jared came to the car with Amber in his arms.

Jared put her down and took out his car key to unlock it.

Amber took this opportunity to turn around and leave.

Jared narrowed his eyes, grabbed her arm, and pulled her back.

In a flash! Amber exclaimed, and then her back pressed against the car door.

Jared rested his hands on both sides of her neck and looked at her with dark eyes. "Are you still running?"

Amber was angry and stared at him. "Jared, what do you want to do?"

"I said I'll send you back!" Jared said slowly.

Amber was on fire. "As I said, I'll take a taxi myself. I don't need you to drive me back. Don't you understand my words?"

Jared lowered his eyes and said, "I'm just giving you a ride because that's what grandma wants. Get in the car."

Jared put down his hand, pressed the car key, and unlocked the door.

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Amber frowned. "Grandma asked you to send me off?"

"Yes."

"But at that time, she asked you to send me off in the ward. I refused, and she didn't ask you again. Why did she let you come out again? Jared Farrell, are you lying to me?" Amber sized him up.

Jared opened the car door and said, "No, grandma said it's getting dark and worried about you being alone, so she decided to let me send you off. Get in the car. You don't want her to worry, do you?"

Amber hesitated for a moment and then sighed. "I see."

After that, Amber turned around and bent down to get into the car.

Jared's knitted brows relaxed imperceptibly when he saw this.

It seemed that she believed it.

Then, Jared closed the back door, walked to the front of the car, and got into the driver's seat. "Back to Kelsington Bay?"

Amber looked out of the window and answered with an indifferent attitude.

Jared pursed his lips and started the car.

Along the way, Amber didn't say a word to him because she didn't want to or say anything.

Jared looked at her through the rearview mirror. His expression was hidden in the shadow of the car, so she couldn't see him clearly.

He was not used to her quietness.

He had been in a car with Amber for a couple of times during the past six years.

At that time, because Amber still loved him, she took the initiative to talk to him in the car. He usually just listened and didn't reply anything. Sometimes, he even thought that she was too annoying and made her shut up.

Now she really closed her mouth and no longer took the initiative to talk to him, which made him feel displeased again.

Thinking of this, Jared's thin lips moved. He started the conversation before he knew it, "Are you and Cole going to get married?"

“What?” Amber was stunned for a moment. She was obviously very surprised that Jared suddenly asked such a question.

“I don’t know.” Amber shook her head.

Suddenly Jared was happy. However, Amber continued to say, “Maybe in the future. After all, he is very good to me. Cole’s parents are also kind people. I’ll be very happy if I marry him.”

Jared tightened his grip on the steering wheel, and his face turned gloomy.

Jared knew that Amber was mocking him and the Farrell family.

But he had to admit that Cole indeed treated her very well. She and Cole’s marriage would definitely be better than when they were together.

Although this was the truth, Jared just felt uncomfortable and annoyed.

He pulled his tie and said in a cold and hard voice, “Really? Then I wish you the best.”

“Thank you, Mr. Farrell. Also, best wishes to you both.” Amber said with a smile.

Jared pursed his thin lips and did not reply.

Best wishes?

For some reason, he did not like such blessings. It was not because there was something wrong with the words, but because he did not like her blessing him and Makenna.

Along the way, they were silent again. The atmosphere was even more depressing than before.

Amber could sense that Jared was in a bad mood, but she didn't know and she even didn't want to know. She simply put on her headphones and listened to the music.

Jared saw it. The atmospheric pressure around him seemed to have gotten lower because of his mood.

"She made me unhappy, but she doesn't care and just enjoys her music."

Jared was really upset.

Not so long, they arrived at Kelsington Bay.

Jared parked his car and Amber opened the door.

Standing on the side of the road, she suddenly understood. Then she opened the wallet again, took out 20 dollars, and knocked on the window.

Jared, who was in the driver's seat, turned his head and looked at her. "Is there anything else?"

There was a hint of imperceptible expectation in his tone.

"Nothing. I just forgot to pay the fare." Amber smiled indifferently, threw the money into the car, and walked toward the building.

Jared looked at her figure and then at the bill on the back seat. His thin lips pursed into a cold straight line.

The next day, Amber came to the office.

Sheila came in. "Ms. Reed, Mr. Cohen is here. He wants to see you."

“Hayden?” Amber hesitated for a moment.

Sheila nodded. “Yes.”

“Why is he here?” Amber pulled out a chair and sat down.

Sheila replied, “Mr. Cohen didn’t say it. But he has something to tell you.”

“I see. Let him in.” Amber turned on the computer and replied.

Hayden would not come to her for nothing.

It seemed that what he wanted to say was probably something big.

Soon, Hayden came in with a file bag in his hand. He was not as casual as usual. Instead, he looked serious, which made Amber feel a little uneasy.

“Sit.” Amber pointed to the chair opposite him, and then looked at Sheila. “Give Mr. Cohen a cup of coffee.”

“Yes.” Sheila responded and turned to leave.

Only Amber and Hayden were left in the office.

Amber looked at him. “You said you have something to tell me. What is it?”

Hayden handed over the file bag and said, “You almost fell off the horse last time, didn’t you?”

Amber nodded. “Of course.”

She was scared at that time. How could she forget?

“What you want to talk to me about that accident?” Amber asked.

Hayden said, “Well, it’s not an accident that you fell off the horse.”

“What?” Amber hesitated for a moment, and then stopped opening the folder. “You said it wasn’t an accident?”

“Yes, it was man-made.” Hayden answered seriously.

“How could it be? Cole told me it was an accident, and you were also there when we were investigating.” Amber said with a frown.

Hayden leaned back and said, “Yes, when we investigated, the result was indeed unexpected, but when I went out the next day...”

He told her how he had found the musk.

Amber clenched her fists. “I see.”

One controlled the horse from a long distance and used it to throw her down. This method could indeed make people think that it was an accident. They would not associate it with Makenna. Even if they thought of her, there was no evidence to prove that it was Makenna, because Makenna had never been to the stable nor been in contact with the horses.

This was exactly the same as the way Makenna had used the snake to hurt her. It seemed that the beating that night was not enough!

However, it didn’t matter. She would settle all the debts that Makenna had done to her with the Gardner family’s wrongdoings!

“What’s in it?” Amber took a deep breath, suppressed her anger, and asked.

Hayden looked at her and said, “I thought you would be very angry after knowing this.”

“Yes, I’m angry, but it’s useless to be angry. Rather than being angry now, it’s better to remember this debt and settle it together in the future.” Amber pursed her lips.

Hayden smiled and said, “You’re right. It’s a fingerprint identification. The fingerprints on the glass bottle are Makenna’s.”

Amber quickly took out the appraisal report and carefully read it. After reading, Amber narrowed her eyes and said, “This is the evidence that Makenna deliberately made me fall off the horse. Will you be so kind to me? Tell me, why did you help me investigate these?”

She didn’t believe in his pure purpose.

After all, they were not good friends.

Hayden clapped his hands and laughed. “Sure, it’s easy to talk to smart people. Yes, I do have a purpose, but it won’t be a lot.”

“Go ahead.” Amber put down the appraisal report and looked at him.

Hayden’s expression became serious again. “I want you to leave this matter to me. After all, you are the victim, so I came here to tell you this as a friend.”

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If he wasn’t for this, he would have dealt with it directly and wouldn’t have come here on purpose.

Amber frowned suspiciously. “Are you going to deal with it?”

“Yes.” Hayden nodded.

Amber smiled, “That’s my business. I’m very grateful that Mr. Cohen helped me find out the truth and evidence. But I’m very curious about why Mr. Cohen has to deal with it. It has nothing to do with you, right?”

“Let’s make it clear first. I’m not doing it for you, but for myself.” Hayden raised a hand in fear of her misunderstanding.

Amber rolled her eyes at him. “Tell me why then.”

“In fact, it’s not a big deal. You know, the Cohen family lost to the Kampwerth family this time and didn’t take over the position of the mayor.” Speaking of this, Hayden narrowed his eyes.

Amber was stunned. “What? You didn’t win? I heard from Cole last time that you had got a sum of money in time and didn’t lag behind the Kampwerth family. Why did you fail all of a sudden?”

“The problem lies with the Gardner family.” Hayden knocked on the table with his fingers. “We and the Kampwerth family found the last company in Kongham that was willing to invest at the same time. Unexpectedly, the company seemed to be hesitant about which family to choose, the Cohen, or the Kampwerth, but they secretly invested in the Kampwerth family, so we lost. It turned out that the Gardner family was the relatives of the company’s chairman.”

“Thus, this matter was manipulated by the Gardner family stealthily?” Amber frowned.

“Yes, we have been fighting for the position of the mayor. We were about to succeed, but we were disrupted by the Gardner family. We will get even with them. However, the Cohen family has a reputation to keep, so it’s not easy for us to fight directly. That’s why I took over the incident that happened to you as a breakthrough point to deal with the Gardner family bit by bit.”

“I see. I understand.” Amber nodded.

Hayden approached her and said, "So did you agree? Although I did it on my own, I also did it to avenge you."

"I know, but I don't need you to avenge me. I will deal with the Gardner family myself. I always remember the hatred between The Trident Group and Goldstone Co, between Makenna and me."

Hayden kept silent for a few seconds and finally suggested, "How about we make an alliance?"

"Alliance?" Amber's eyes lit up with interest.

"Well, since we all want to deal with the Gardner family, we can work together. You have no power now. How do you take revenge? Wait for Goldstone to rise. But you can't be sure that Trenton won't take action during this period. Even if he doesn't, when you're developing Goldstone, the Trident Group is growing too. You still can't catch up with him, let alone take revenge."

Amber was too embarrassed to answer.

Yes, when she's making progress, Trenton would not stay at the same spot too.

Therefore, if Amber wanted revenge, there was still a long way to go. It was impossible for her to avenge herself in a short time.

Seeing Amber's silence, Hayden knew that he had gotten on the right track. He took a sip of coffee, and continued, "So you can only choose to form an alliance with someone who also has a grudge against the Gardner family. Otherwise, it will be nearly impossible for you to take revenge. I am the best ally. I have power that can bring you a lot of help. You work with me for less than a year, and you'll get to seek revenge. What do you think? Aren't you tempted?"

In fact, with the power of the Cohen family, it was easy to deal with the Gardner family. In just a month, the Trident Group could go bankrupt, but he couldn't do that.

First of all, the Gardner family was not only powerful in Olkmore, but it was also a well-known real estate enterprise over the country. There were tens of thousands of employees. If the Trident Group

suddenly went bankrupt, these employees would lose their jobs. The higher-ups would also investigate and find out that it was the Cohen family who did it, and the Cohen family would suffer, which was not worth it for the Cohens.

Therefore, the best way was to do it secretly. The Cohen family could use the wrongdoings of the Gardner family to deal with them bit by bit. Although the process was a little slow, it was safe.

By the time the Gardner family realized that they were targeted, the Trident Group had already run by others. The group would not go bankrupt, their employees would not lose their jobs, and the government would not investigate. It would be great if the Gardner family lose everything.

Of course, Amber could think of what Hayden could think of.

She sighed. "It seems impossible not to cooperate with you."

Hayden smiled and reached out his hand. "Don't worry. I won't have you lose anything. Leave this case to me. You don't have to do anything. Just regard it as an accident and don't make it public. When the Gardners run into trouble in a year, I will inform you. You can give them the last blow."

Amber looked down at his hand but didn't hold it. "Aren't you afraid that Mr. Farrell will fall out with you if you do this? After all, the woman he loves most is from the Gardners."

"The woman he loves most?" Hayden raised his eyebrows and suddenly smiled meaningfully. "Do you really believe that Jared loves Makenna?"

"What do you mean?" Amber was slightly surprised.

Hayden smiled and said, "Let's have a bet."

"A bet?" Amber pursed her lips.

Hayden nodded. "Yes. We bet on whether Jared loves Makenna. I bet he doesn't love her."

“Are you kidding?” Amber looked at him strangely. “Jared doesn’t love Makenna. How can you say that?”

“Who is kidding? I’m serious. I bet he doesn’t love Makenna. As for how to prove it, just notice whether Jared will break up with me in a year.” Hayden smiled confidently.

Amber curled her lips and then smiled. “Okay, Mr. Cohen, since you can’t wait to lose, I’ll accept your challenge. What’s the bet?”

Lose?

There was a hint of playfulness in Hayden’s eyes.

He didn’t think he would lose.

“I haven’t thought of the bet yet. Let’s decide it when the result is out in a year.” Hayden thought for a moment and replied.

Amber nodded. “Okay.”

After that, she reached out and held his hand.

Hayden’s hands were big. His skin was dark, so were his hands.

Amber’s hands were small and elegant.

Their hands were clasped together, forming a very distinct skin difference.

Hayden felt the small hand in his hand, his heart giving a subtle leap.

He subconsciously squished the small hand, which was soft and warm as if it had no bones. It felt very good, which made him a little addicted and he couldn't help squishing it again.

Amber watched his actions and her mouth twitched. "Mr. Cohen, does my hand feel good?"

Hayden was stunned, and then realized what he was doing. His ears turned red, and he quickly let go of her hand and put his hands behind his back. "Ahem, I'm sorry, but Ms. Reed, your hands feel squish-squashy..."

Amber was amused.

It felt good, so he pinched it like pinching a toy. She hadn't thought of him being so childish.

"All right. Mr. Cohen, please keep this evidence." Amber waved her hand to show that she didn't care. Then she picked up the file bag on the table and handed it to Hayden.

Since he was to deal with everything, it was useless for her to keep this.

Hayden took it and said, "Okay, then the Cohens will slowly infiltrate the Gardners. I will update you on the progress. Of course, if we need your help, you should help me."

"I will." Amber promised.

After all, they were partners, so of course she would not refuse.

"Okay, then I'll go." Hayden said.

Amber saw him out of the office.

Hayden walked toward the elevator. On the way, he couldn't help thinking of the feeling of holding Amber's hand just now. The softness was lingering in her head.

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He raised his hand, put it under his nose, and smelled a faint fragrance.

Hayden knew it was the smell of her perfume, which remained in his hand after he shook hands with her.

This fragrance was fresh and elegant, just like her. He wanted to smell it a few more times.

So he did. He lowered his head slightly and smelled the aroma on his hand. What came into his mind was the scene that he held Amber in his arms, burying his head in her neck and smelling the perfume on her body.

For a moment, Hayden's ears became red and his heart beat faster.

Just then, the door of the elevator opened.

Cole came out with a thermos in his hand. He hadn't expected that there would be someone there and almost bumped into him.

Fortunately, Cole stopped in time and avoided such a situation.

"Why are you here?" Seeing that the person in front of him was Hayden, Cole asked doubtfully.

The image in Hayden's mind vanished, and his face fell.

Then thinking of the relationship between Cole and Amber, he felt even worse. He snorted, passed Cole and went straight into the elevator without answering.

Cole tilted his head, feeling confused. "What's the matter?"

Did he offend Hayden?

Why did he look at him like he's an enemy?"

"What a lunatic!" Cole was in puzzlement. He rolled his eyes and walked to Amber's office.

"Hey babe." Cole pushed the door open and went in.

Amber was dealing with the documents. When she heard his voice, she looked up and asked, "Why are you here? You got your work done?"

Since the Goldstone was on the right track, Cole came here less frequently than before.

After all, he had his own company to look after.

"I have nothing to do today. My mother made braised pork ribs. She knows you like it, so she asked me to bring you some." Cole raised the thermos in his hand.

Amber's eyes lit up. "It's been a long time since I ate that last time. I really appreciate it."

"Try it now before it gets cold." Cole put the thermos on her desk and then opened lid.

As soon as it was opened, a strong meaty smell filled the air.

Amber's smile froze when she smelled that. Her face turned pale at a visible speed. She covered her mouth, pushed the chair away, and ran to the bathroom.

"What's wrong?" Cole was stunned till he heard her retching. He quickly put down the plate in his hand and rushed to the bathroom.

The moment he was at the door of the bathroom door, Cole saw Amber bending over the washing table and vomiting.

“Baby, what’s wrong with you?” Cole frowned, his eyes full of worry.

Amber adjusted her breathing, closed her eyes slightly, leaned against the wall beside the washing table, and said weakly, “I’m fine.”

“You are not well. Look at your pale face. No, I’ll call the doctor.” As he spoke, Cole took out his mobile phone and was about to make a phone call.

Amber opened her eyes and stopped him. “Cole, there’s no need. I’m not sick.”

“Not sick?” Cole looked at her with confusion. “Then why are you...”

Amber sighed. “All right. I won’t hide it from you now. You’ll find out sooner or later anyway. I’m pregnant.”

“Oh, pregnant. I thought...”

Then Cole suddenly realized something. He widened his eyes and raised his voice. “What? You are pregnant?”

Amber nodded.

Cole was stunned. After a long time, he finally found his voice and asked in a hoarse voice, “How long has it been?”

“Almost two months.” Amber replied with her eyes lowered.

Two months...

Wasn't that the time when she divorced Jared?"

Cole tried to suppress the jealousy bubbling up in his heart, "Is it Jared's?"

"Let's go outside." Amber didn't answer the question.

Cole nodded and helped her out.

Cole took Amber to the sofa in the rest area, had her seated, and then poured her a glass of water. "Have some water. You just threw up, and you must feel uncomfortable in your stomach. This will make you feel better."

"Thank you." Amber smiled, took the glass and had some water. She answered. "It's not Jared's."

It was ridiculous that he didn't touch her during the six years of her marriage with Jared. Apart from the reason that he didn't love her, also, the only he wanted to sleep with was Makenna.

So how could she be pregnant with Jared's child?

"What?" Cole was stunned again. He opened his mouth several times before he asked with difficulty, "If it's not Jared's, then whose is it?"

If it were Jared's, although he would feel upset, he could accept it. After all, she and Jared had been husband and wife before, so it was normal for her to be pregnant with his child.

But now she told him that it was not Jared's. He felt uncomfortable and was very pised with the man who made her pregnant.

“I don’t know who he is. I don’t even know his name and even his appearance.” Amber touched her belly and said with a wry smile, “Because I was completely confused and scared thereafter, so I just took a glance at that man and left. I didn’t think of asking his name at all.”

Although later she added him into her friend list and asked him for his name, the man did not intend to tell her.

So far, she still did not know who the man was.

Cole grabbed her hand and asked eagerly, “Baby, were you raped?”

She didn’t know who the father of the child was. Except for being raped, he couldn’t think of anything else.

However, Amber shook her head. “No. I was drunk and had sex unknowingly with a man. It was on the night of your birthday.”

Cole remembered it. “So the mark I saw on your neck the next day was not what you said at that time...”

“Sorry, Cole. I lied to you.” Amber apologized.

She had thought that what was done was done. As long as she didn’t say it, no one would know.

But she was pregnant, so she was not able to cover up what had happened.

Cole clenched his fists and punched the tea table.

Amber was shocked. “Cole, what are you doing?”

“I’m angry. I’m angry that I didn’t stay with you at that time. If I had been there, you wouldn’t have...” Cole lowered his head in remorse, and his voice was choked with sobs.

Amber grabbed his hand to check if he was injured.

Seeing that he was not injured, she breathed a sigh of relief. "Well, it's not your fault. I drank too much, so that happened."

"Baby, did you investigate that man after that?" What if the man's presence was not an accident?" Cole asked.

After all, Makenna and the others were also at the club on his birthday.

What if that man was arranged by Makenna? That was what he was most worried about.

Amber shook her head. "I asked Hayden to check. He's fine. And he's a friend of Hayden's. I once got his help. He offered me suggestions on how to acquire Yutoga and the use of Jared's land."

"Oh?" Cole raised his eyebrows in surprise. "So it is him."

Amber replied, "Yes. That night was really just an accident."

"Humph, even if it was an accident, it's true that he did something immoral to you. No, I have to see Hayden and find out who that man is. I have to teach him a lesson." Cole stormed out the door so furiously that Amber was unable to stop him.

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The man outside the office heard the footsteps getting closer and closer. He immediately turned around and quickly walked toward the escape staircases.

Two minutes later. The man came out. Looking at Amber's office, he took out his mobile phone, and dialed a number.

In the Farrell Group, Ben was standing beside Jared's desk, sorting out the documents. Hearing the phone ring, he stopped what he was doing and said, "Mr. Farrell, can I answer a phone call?"

Jared was typing on the keyboard. When he heard his words, he nodded without looking up.

With permission, Ben took out his phone. When he saw the caller's name, his eyes lit up. "Mr. Farrell, it's Lee."

"Who?" Farrell frowned and didn't realize who it was.

Ben reminded him, "It was the assistant we bought off in Goldstone last time. He often delivers documents to Miss Reed's office, so we bought him off and asked him to keep an eye on Miss Reed's baby. Now he called. I think there must be some news."

Hearing this, Jared immediately raised his head, his tone full of undisguised eagerness. "Answer it."

"Yes, Mr. Farrell." Ben answered the phone.

"Mr. Channing." On the other end of the phone, Lee greeted him politely.

Ben waved his hand and said, "All right, tell me, is there any news of Miss Reed's pregnancy?"

"You're right. I heard outside the door Ms. Reed and Mr. Lyon talking about the pregnancy when I was delivering the document."

Ben pushed his glasses up. "Mr. Farrell, it seems that Mr. Lyon has already known that Miss Reed is pregnant."

Jared pursed his lips. "Ask him if he heard whether the child is Cole's."

Ben nodded and conveyed his words.

Lee, who was on the other end of the phone, quickly replied, "It's not Mr. Lyon's. Ms. Reed said that she accidentally had sex with a man on the night of Mr. Lyon's birthday and was pregnant with the child."

Ben immediately told this to Jared.

After hearing this, Jared's pupils contracted. He was overwhelmed.

It was his!

The baby was his!

Jared clenched his fists.

Perhaps because the news was too shocking, he clenched his fists so hard that his fists trembled slightly.

Seeing this, Ben realized something. He swallowed and suppressed the shock in his heart. He said to the other end of the phone, "Got it. There's no need to keep watching any longer..."

"No, ask him to keep watching." Jared interrupted Ben and said in a hoarse voice, "We not only need him to keep watching her, but also he should watch closely. It's better for him to make it clear when and where Amber is to do the prenatal testing. His bonus will be doubled."

Ben nodded. "Yes, Mr. Farrell."

Then he told Lee what Jared had said.

Lee patted his chest and promised that he would not make them disappointed.

After the call, Ben looked at Jared and said, "Mr. Farrell, Miss Reed's baby is yours."

Jared lowered his eyelids. "Yes."

"What are you going to do? To keep it or..."

"The child's life is not on me, but on Amber. If she wants to keep it, I will secretly arrange everything for her to give birth to the child safely. If she doesn't, I will respect her decision." Jared said.

But when he said "she doesn't", his heart inexplicably hurt.

He was even a little flustered.

"No wonder you asked Lee to find out when and where Miss Reed is to do the prenatal testing. I see." Ben finally understood Jared's intention.

Jared pursed his thin lips and said nothing.

Ben looked at Makenna's photo next to the computer. He had something to say but stopped on second thought.

Jared narrowed his eyes and said, "What do you want to say?"

"I want to say that if Miss Reed chooses to keep the child, when Miss Gardner and her family know about it in the future, will they..." Ben was a little worried.

With their narrow minds, Miss Gardner and her family would never tolerate the Miss Reed's child.

Jared was obviously aware of this. He rubbed his eyebrows tiredly and said, "For the time being, don't let Makenna and her family know. As for the rest, wait for Amber's decision. If you find out the time and hospital for her prenatal testing, inform the hospital in advance. Tell the doctor to ask Amber whether she wants to keep the child or not."

“Yes, Mr. Farrell.” Ben nodded.

Jared waved his hand and said, “Go ahead.”

Ben turned around and left.

Jared leaned against the back of the chair. His eyes closed as he pinched his nose.

“Amber, what will be your decision?”

Just as he was thinking, his phone rang.

Jared opened his eyes and straightened his back. It was a message from Amber.

She texted him at this time.

Was she going to tell him that she was pregnant?

Jared grabbed his phone and clicked on the message.

However, it was not what he had thought. She just asked him if he was abroad.

Jared texted: Yes.

In Goldstone’s office, Amber was relieved when she saw this message.

Amber: That’s good.

Z: Why?

Amber sighed and replied: My friend knew our affair on the night two months ago. He's very angry and is to ask Hayden about you. I'm afraid he'll make trouble, so it's good that you're abroad."

Reading this, Jared's thin lips curled up.

Z: I see. Are you worried about me when you tell me this?

Amber frowned.

This man was really narcissistic.

She shook her head and texted back: Knock it off. I just feel that it's been so long since it happened. There's no need to make a scene. And even if I'm worried, I'm worried about my friend.

In other words, he didn't even get a spot in her heart.

So why would she worry about him?

Jared pursed his lips. He was a little dejected, and his face fell.

Z: Got it. Anything else to say?

Amber: No.

Z: All right.

After sending the message, Jared stared at the phone screen for two minutes, but there was no message from Amber.

Jared knew that she wouldn't text back, and his face darkened even more.

Cole was to ask Hayden about him for what had happened that night.

She didn't even tell him that she was pregnant.

In fact, Jared really wanted Amber to tell him and even ask him to take the responsibility directly.

But she didn't. She was to bear it alone.

Perhaps other men would be very happy, but he only felt annoyed.

Would she die if she relied on him and asked him to bear the responsibility?

Jared pulled his tie. The pressure around him was terrifyingly low.

At the Cohen's house.

Cole got out of the car and knocked on the door irately.

The butler opened the door and asked, "Sir, may I know your name?"

"I want to see Hayden!" Cole gnashed his teeth.

The butler looked at him warily.

Was he Mr. Cohen's foe?

Cole seemed to understand what the butler was thinking. He took a deep breath and suppressed the rage in his heart. He forced a smile and said, "I am a friend of Hayden's. I have something urgent, so I look a little aggressive. Would you tell him I'm here? I have something very important to ask him. Please."

Cole made a bow with folded hands.

Seeing that he was really in a hurry and was not lying, the butler hesitated for a moment. He nodded and said, "Okay, please wait a minute."

The butler closed the door and went upstairs to find Hayden.

Hayden was making a phone call when he heard the butler's words. He raised his eyebrows and said, "Someone wants to see me? Who is it?"

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"I don't know either. That man looked like he's from a high rank, driving a luxury car and wearing a floral shirt..."

A floral shirt?

Hayden's lips twitched. A figure appeared in his mind.

"I know who it was. Where is he?" he asked.

The butler answered, "Outside the villa."

"Please let him in. I'll go downstairs right away," said Hayden.

The butler answered and left.

Hayden picked up his phone again and exchanged a few words with the person on the other end of the line before hanging up the phone. Then he closed the bedroom door and went downstairs.

He wondered why Cole had come to him.

“Hello, Cole.” Hayden arrived downstairs. Seeing Cole sitting on the sofa, he scratched his hair and asked, “What can I do for you? I didn’t expect you to come to my house.”

Cole smashed the coffee mug on the tea table, stood up, and strode over the tea table, heading to Hayden in anger.

He grabbed Hayden’s necktie and shouted, “Where is he?”

Hayden was confused. “Who?”

“The bastard who bullied Amber that night,” Cole roared with reddish eyes.

When Hayden heard his question, his expression changed. “What did you say? Has Amber been bullied?”

“Yes. At my birthday party. Babe got drunk. Your friend slept with her. She is...”

“How’s she doing now?” Hayden pulled away Cole’s hands. Instead, he grabbed Cole’s collar and asked eagerly, “Tell me. How’s she doing now?”

Seeing his panicked look, Cole felt weird.

Hayden seemed to care a lot about Amber’s matter.

Cole didn’t overthink, though. He pushed Hayden away. Clenching his fists, he answered, “She is pregnant.”

“What?” Hayden gaped.

Amber was pregnant?

“Are you gonna tell me who that man is?” Cole roared.

Hayden’s lips parted.

How could he tell Cole?

That man was Jared.

Seeing that Hayden lowered his head in silence thoughtfully, Cole became furious. His fists trembled.
“Hayden Cohen, do you want to cover up for gun?”

“No, I don’t...”

“If not, you’d better tell me. He never shows up after Baby was raped by him. Now, she’s pregnant. Is he still hiding in the dark?” Cole squeezed words between his teeth.

Hayden answered with a weird look, “Nah. He’s abroad.”

“Is he?” Cole waved his fist in the air. “Humph! Think he can skip the responsibility by hiding aboard, huh? No way! You’d better call him right now and ask him to come back.”

Hayden’s eyes twinkled, feeling guilty. “I’m afraid I can’t do it. I’m his friend, but we are not close. He’s quite mysterious. I can’t guarantee if I can get in touch with him.”

“What?” Cole frowned.

Hayden coughed. "Well... Why don't you go home? I'll try to contact him later. If I could reach him, I would call you back. All right?"

"No way. I'll stay here. Give me his contact number. I'll call him myself." Cole reached out his hand.

Hayden didn't expect him to be so challenging to deal with, feeling an intense migraine.

He didn't have the guts to give Jared's phone number to Cole. If Cole and Amber knew that man was Jared, Hayden didn't dare imagine what would happen.

Besides, he had his own purpose, unwilling to let Amber know she had been pregnant with Jared's baby.

After thinking for a moment, Hayden narrowed his eyes. "All right. All right. I'll give it to you. Just take it and leave."

He walked to the tea table, found a pen and some paper from the drawer, and wrote down a phone number. Then he gave the note to Cole.

Cole took a glance. "His name?"

"He always used nickname when coming into town. It's fake and doesn't make any sense," Hayden said, rolling his eyes at Cole.

Cole pinched the note. "Shit! A foreigner? He thought he could just rape a drunken lady in a strange country and flea away after this. He wishes! I must go abroad and beat him up in person. Fucking bastard!"

Cole left the villa while cursing.

Hayden wiped off the sweat from his forehead, breathing a sigh of relief.

Finally, he managed to send this troublemaker away.

Hayden went back upstairs and dialed Jared's phone number.

As if he had expected Hayden would call, Jared asked, "Cole Lyon went to see you?"

"How did you know?" Hayden was shocked.

Jared looked down. "Amber told me."

Hayden understood. Curling his lips, he answered, "Right. I've forgotten. You friended Amber on WhatsApp. Cole wanted to hunt you down. Of course she would tell you."

Upon hearing the jealousy in Hayden, Jared frowned.

He wondered why Hayden was jealous.

"You knew Cole has come to me, so you should also know Amber is pregnant, right?" Hayden asked.

Around two months ago, on the following morning of Cole's birthday, Jared called Hayden to delete the surveillance record of the nightclub. Hayden was curious about what was in the footage, so he took a look at it before deleting it. He gaped when seeing Jared carry Amber into a room.

Hence, Amber should've get pregnant that evening.

"Yes, I know it." Jared nodded.

Hayden squinted. "Upon your tone, I can hear you aren't surprised at all. You seem to have known it quite a long time ago."

Jared hummed to answer.

Bingo!

“How long have you found this?” Hayden asked.

Jared answered, “Several days ago.”

Hayden suddenly thought about that day on the horse ranch. He asked, “No wonder you stopped Amber from riding the horse that day. I guess you might have known it at that time already.”

“You are right,” Jared answered flatly. Then he asked, “Have you told Cole it was me that night?”

“No, I haven’t. You asked me to delete the surveillance footage, so I guessed you didn’t want Amber to know who slept with her that night, not to mention Cole.” Hayden answered. His eyes dimmed.

“Thanks, Hayden.”

“Don’t mention it. I just want to know what your plan is on this matter? Do you want to remarry Amber?” Hayden pinched his phone tightly.

Upon hearing it, Jared felt touched.

However, he thought about something and suppressed it.

“No, I won’t remarry her.” Jared pinched between his eyebrows. “I’ve betrayed Makenna once. I can’t do it again to her.”

“Betrayed?” Hayden rolled his eyes in disdain. “All right. All up to you, Dude.”

In the past, he would convince Jared to remarry Amber. After all, Amber had been pregnant, and Makenna didn't deserve Jared.

However, Hayden realized that he had a crush on Amber, too. Hence, he wouldn't try to convince Jared.

"If not, what's your plan for the baby in Amber's belly? Will you take responsibility?" Hayden calmed down and asked.

Jared looked down. "Of course, I will. If Amber is willing to keep it, I can raise the child with her in secret. If she's unwilling, I'll compensate her."

"That's not bad. Anyway, you should tell Amber what you think."

"I know. After Amber has made the decision about the baby, I'll tell her about my thoughts," Jared answered.

Hayden thought for a few seconds. "I don't think you should wait until that day. If you want to tell her, you'd better do it as soon as possible. If you wait for too long, Amber will probably not accept it."

Jared was silent.

Hayden heaved a sigh. "All right. That's what I think. You just chew on it."

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After hanging up the call, Jared put down the phone, lost in thought.

He was considering Hayden's suggestion.

Probably, Hayden was right. If he kept stalling, things would probably get out of control.

Jared picked up his phone again as he was thinking, open WhatsApp, tabbed on Amber's ID in the contact list, and messaged her.

Z: I knew about your pregnancy.

Amber was reading a file. Her phone vibrated.

She looked up to check it, only to find a message from Z. She was confused.

They had just finished chatting. Why did he message her again?

"What do you want to tell me?" Amber thought to herself as she tabbed open the chatbox.

Reading his message, Amber stiffened.

He had known it.

Amber clenched her hands, frowned, and replied: How did you know?

Z: Your friend went to find Hayden. Hayden called me.

Seeing that, Amber understood. She patted her forehead.

Oh, she thought Z had sent someone to watch her.

Had the pregnancy diminished her intelligence?

Amber typed: Since you knew it, I won't hide it from you anymore. Yes, I'm pregnant.

Z: Why didn't you tell me?

Amber frowned.

Amber: Why should I tell you?

Reading her question, Jared looked annoyed.

Why?

She asked why!

Z: Because I'm the baby's father.

Amber pursed her lips.

Amber: You are the baby's father, but it doesn't mean I must tell you. It was an accident between us. I also got pregnant by accident. We don't know each other. I don't know your identity. I don't need you to take any responsibility. Why should I tell you just because you are the baby's father?

Jared was rendered speechless, pressing his lips tightly.

Although he had to admit that her words made sense, he felt pretty irritated.

Pinching between his eyebrows, Jared typed: Although you don't need me to take the responsibility, I must. I want to know your plan for the baby. Would you like to keep it or...

He paused several seconds. Then clenching his fists, he finished typing and sent the message.

Amber read his question. When she saw that he asked if she wanted to keep or abort the baby, her heart tightened.

Although the doctor also asked her such a question earlier, she was shocked by her pregnancy at that time. She had never thought about her plan on the baby.

However, the baby's father asked her, so she had to think about it sincerely.

Amber bit her bottom lip and entered the words with trembling fingers: I don't know.

Jared wasn't surprised by her answer.

In the past few days, she had never been to the hospital for a checkup. Hence, he knew she hadn't made up her mind yet.

Z: It's alright. Take your time. If you want to keep it, please go ahead. I'll raise the child with you in secret. If you don't, I'll compensate you.

Raise the child in secret?

Seeing his words, Amber squinted. "Okay, I'll think about it."

Z: Tell me after you've made up your mind.

Amber twitched her lips and didn't reply. She directly turned off her phone.

He mentioned raising the child in secret, so she knew he had no plan to recognize the baby openly.

In this case, he probably had been married or had a girlfriend or a fiancée. Or, his family didn't allow him to have any illegitimate child outside. Hence, he wanted to raise the child in secret without letting others know he was the baby's father.

No matter what, the baby in her belly would be an illegitimate child not expected.

Neither the baby's parents expected it. Nor would it be expected by its father's family.

Hence, it was evident for Amber to make a decision.

Amber covered her belly.

A child should be raised in a family with love instead of with a strange man that she didn't love at all.

Amber also couldn't accept that her child would become illegitimate. Hence...

Amber pinched her blouse. Bearing the sharp pang from her heart, she apologized to the baby, "I'm sorry, baby. I'm not a good mother. You shouldn't have come to my belly. I'm sorry..."

Right then, her office door was pushed open. Cole rushed in with an angry look.

"What happened?" Amber suppressed her guilt, looked up at him, and asked.

Cole walked to her desk, picked up her coffee mug, raised his head, and gulped down.

Amber couldn't stop him.

She gave up. It was just a cup of coffee.

He didn't mind drinking the coffee she had touched. Why would she remind him?

Cole smashed the empty mug onto the desk and cursed loudly, "Damn you Hayden Cohen!"

Amber blinked. "What's wrong with him?"

"I went to ask him to tell me about that man. He said that man was abroad."

"Yes, he is," said Amber.

Cole snorted. "So I asked Hayden Cohen to give me that man's phone number. Guess what? Hayden gave me a fake number! Fuck!"

Amber chuckled. "Probably Hayden didn't do it on purpose. That man might have changed his number."

"Who knows? Anyway, this is not the end. I must find that man," Cole said, patting the desk.

Amber rubbed her temples. "All right. He has known I'm pregnant. Hayden told him. He also messaged me earlier."

"Did Hayden tell him?" Cole frowned. He was enraged. "Fuck! Hayden Cohen tricked me, so he gave me a fake number. Otherwise, how could he get in touch with that man?"

"Uh..." Amber was taken aback.

Hayden gave Z's number to Cole, but Cole found it was a fake number. However, Hayden could contact Z.

It meant Hayden didn't give Cole the correct number. Why did Hayden do that?

"Shit! Hayden Cohen is a bastard!" Cole clenched his fists, wishing to hit Hayden. "If I see him again, I'll beat him up. How dare he trick me!"

“All right. Calm down. Please forget Hayden’s matter. Aren’t you curious what that man has said to me?” Amber looked at him.

Cole approached her. “What did he say? Did he deny it or...”

“No, he didn’t deny he was the father of my baby. He’s willing to take the responsibility,” said Amber.

Cole looked much better. “That’s better. As a man, he should do that. Otherwise, he’s not a man. What does he plan to do?”

“Cole, what about I have an abortion?” Amber asked instead of answering him.

Cole became solemn. “Are you serious?”

Amber nodded. “Yep. I don’t want to give birth to a baby whose father doesn’t love me. I also don’t want the baby to be illegitimate. So, I want to abort it.”

Cole smiled. “That’s right. Since it was an accident that night, you shouldn’t keep this baby. It’s good for you, that man, and the baby in the belly. Babe, I’m so glad you can think it through.”

Amber became more determined to abort the baby with her best friend’s support.

She took a deep breath and nodded. “That man said if I aborted it, he would compensate me. So far, I don’t know what kind of compensation it would be.”

“I guess it’s money,” Cole said.

Amber smiled. “I guess so.”

“Babe, when will you do the surgery? I’ll go with you,” Cole said while staring at her.

Amber shook her head. "I haven't thought of it yet."

She had just made up her mind and hadn't thought about the date yet.

After thinking for a moment, Amber said, "The day after tomorrow. I won't be busy that day."

"All right," Cole answered.

Then, Amber checked the time and stood up. "Alright, Cole, I need to go to the hotel now. The project partners of the Farrell Group will be announced today."

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"I'll go with you." Cole stood up, looking worried about her.

Amber was touched and amused. "No, thanks. I'm just pregnant, not injured. I'm fine by myself."

After that, she grabbed her purse from the rack and left the office, driving to the hotel.

Coincidentally, when Amber arrived at the hotel entrance, she met Jared and his assistant, Ben.

They had just arrived as well. They didn't expect to meet Amber here, looking a bit surprised.

"Good day, Ms. Reed," Ben greeted her.

Amber nodded at him in response.

Then she glanced at Jared and greeted him, "Hello, Mr. Farrell."

Jared hummed, paused his pace, and let her enter first.

However, Amber wanted to let him enter first.

After all, Jared was the sponsor of the project and the owner of this hotel. She believed she should be after him.

Hence, they stood in front of the entrance without going inside. The atmosphere was a bit awkward.

In the end, Ben returned to his senses and understood Amber's thoughts. He coughed and reminded Jared in a low voice, "Ms. Reed wants to go in after you, Mr. Farrell. I know you want to be after her, but you are the project sponsor. If you don't go in, Ms. Reed won't enter either."

Jared frowned slightly.

He had never expected her to pay so much attention to the business manners.

That made sense. If she hadn't cared about it, she wouldn't have blamed Makenna for skipping the line in the resort.

Thinking of that, Jared walked into the hotel.

Ben followed him.

Looking at their receding figures, Amber breathed a sigh of relief.

Finally, they walked in. Otherwise, she was about to break the business rules.

People who broke the business rules would be isolated by other counterparts. So in the end, Jared and Ben walked in first.

Amber lifted her purse on her shoulder, took a deep breath, and entered the hotel.

She walked to the elevator and pressed the button to go up.

Much to her surprise, as soon as she pressed it, the light on the button went out automatically.

She wondered what had happened.

Was any elevator opened?

Amber frowned and wanted to find the opened elevator. Then she heard a voice. "Ms. Reed, here."

She subconsciously looked over, only to find that Ben poked out his head from the third elevator in the row while smiling at her.

Amber understood what had happened.

No wonder right after she had pressed the button, the light went out.

It turned out Jared and Ben had been waiting for her in the third elevator.

Seeing Amber standing in front of the first elevator motionlessly, Ben urged, "Ms. Reed, hurry up and come in. We're waiting for you."

Amber parted her lips. "No, thanks. You can go upstairs first. I..."

"We'll be late," Ben interrupted Amber's refusal after receiving Jared's gaze.

Upon hearing it, Amber raised her wrist to check the time on the watch. That was true. They only had a few minutes.

It seemed she had to take the same elevator with them.

Amber heaved a sigh and entered it.

Seeing the man standing in the center of the elevator who emanated a strong aura, Amber looked down a bit and said, "Thanks."

"Not at all," Jared cast her a glance and answered.

Amber stood in the corner in silence.

Jared didn't speak, either.

As the subordinate, Ben couldn't speak when his boss didn't.

Hence, the whole elevator was so quiet that only the breathing sounds could be heard.

Ben's professional smile was natural initially, but gradually, it stiffened.

He wished they could speak or do something.

If not, it felt so cold and suppressed.

Finally, the elevator arrived at the destination floor.

Ben walked out as soon as the door was opened to block the door from closing. He heaved a sigh of relief in secret.

He didn't need to feel the suffocating atmosphere with the other two anymore.

Amber didn't know what was in Ben's mind. She left the elevator after Jared.

Then she stood in front of the elevator for two seconds deliberately. Until Jared and Ben had gone far, she lifted her foot and followed them in the distance.

Soon, they arrived at the meeting room.

Ben pushed the door open.

Jared walked in. Amber followed him.

When seeing them enter the room, all the attendees stopped talking. Silence blanketed the room.

Trenton was sitting on the first seat left to the chairman's seat. Seeing Amber, he squinted. "Jared, why do you arrive with Ms. Reed together?"

"We met each other downstairs. All right. The meeting starts." Jared pulled the chair and sat down.

Trenton knew he didn't want to talk about it, so he gave up.

However, he kept gazing at Amber gloomily as if Amber had purposely come in with Jared.

Amber rolled her eyes at him secretly. Ignoring him, she opened her notebook, ready to take notes for the meeting.

On the chairman's seat, Jared glanced at all the attendees and looked at Amber for a few seconds. Then he withdrew his gaze and said, "I've finished reading all your proposals and selected the five most excellent ones. These five companies will be our business partners."

Everyone subconsciously sat upright, becoming serious.

Amber wasn't an exception. Besides being serious, she felt a bit nervous.

No matter the business competence or the company's strength, she and Goldstone were no match to the rest of the competitors at the scene.

Hence, she didn't really have much hope about this.

"Mr. Farrell, since you've made the decision. Please go ahead to announce it. We want to know who are so lucky," someone urged.

"Exactly. Mr. Farrell, please."

"Yes, Jared. Please hurry up," Trenton echoed in an expectant tone.

Yesterday, after Makenna went to the Farrell Group to submit the proposal, she told Trenton they had guaranteed a seat for the project.

Hence, Trenton eagerly wanted to know if Makenna had told the truth. After all, he knew his plan well. It would be difficult to be chosen. However, it would be possible if Jared changed his mind to open a backdoor for him for Makenna's sake.

Amber gazed at Jared nervously.

Feeling her gaze, he looked over at her.

Amber didn't expect him to look over. She was taken aback and looked down. Then she turned away to dodge his gaze.

Seeing that, Jared pressed his lips and said in a deep tone, "Please announce it, Ben."

"Yes, Mr. Farrell," Ben answered. Then he read a name list, "According to the proposal selection, we finally chose five business partners for this project. They are Mr. Tubbs from Zoloha, Mr. Morris from Bisou, Mr. Boyd from JANIK, Ms. Rydell from MiAko, and..."

He paused a bit. Except for the four selected ones, others' hearts jumped to their throats.

Amber clenched her hands tightly and bit her bottom lip.

She wondered if it would be her.

Her heart hammered. She gazed at the name list in Ben's hand without a blink.

Noticing her gaze, Ben heaved a sigh. Pushing up his glasses, he raised his voice and announced the last business partner. "And Mr. Gardner from the Trident Group."

Upon hearing it, others sighed in disappointment.

Amber looked down in frustration, releasing her clenched hands.

It wasn't her.

Although she was mentally prepared, she still felt deflated when hearing the result.

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Jared had been watching her expression all the time.

Seeing her disappointed face, he felt sorry for her somehow.

However, her proposal was just mediocre. Although he felt sorry, he couldn't open a backdoor for her.

Trenton got the good news of securing the last spot for the business partner, laughing out happily.

He knew his plan well, so he wouldn't gain the place. However, he did.

He believed that Jared had dumped his principles and opened the backdoor for him for the sake of Makenna.

Thinking of that, Trenton looked at Jared in satisfaction.

Sure enough, Jared was his good son-in-law.

Jared frowned, wondering why Trenton was staring at him in that way.

Without overthinking, he pressed his lips and said indifferently, "I've decided the five business partners. Please come to the Farrell Group to sign the contract at this time tomorrow. Now, I'm showing you all the five proposals, so you will know why they've been chosen."

"That's a good idea," someone agreed while nodding.

Amber also agreed.

She also wanted to know what her proposal lacked compared to theirs.

However, when seeing the business plans projected by Ben, Amber gaped. "How could it be possible?" she yelled subconsciously.

Others looked over at her.

"What happened, Ms. Reed?" A man sitting next to her, asked in confusion.

Amber didn't answer him. Gazing at Trenton's plan on the screen, she asked, "Mr. Farrell, can you please tell me why my proposal is under Mr. Gardner's name?"

What?

Jared frowned, turned to look at the screen.

He looked at Trenton's proposal and didn't find anything wrong. He turned around and said, "That is Mr. Gardner's proposal."

The proposal shown on the screen was exactly the same as the one he had read yesterday.

However, Trenton looked a bit guilty.

In fact, when the proposals were projected on the screen, he found something wrong. The business proposal under his name wasn't written by him. Although he was surprised, he didn't say anything. After all, the decision had been made. Besides, he realized that he had gained the place of the business partner not because Jared had opened a backdoor for him but because of this proposal.

Hence, he would never admit the proposal wasn't written by him. However, he didn't expect the proposal to be Amber's. Also, she even told everyone immediately.

"Bullshit, Jared Farrell!" Amber heard Jared's confirmation, trembling in anger. She didn't call him Mr. Farrell but called his full name. "This is my proposal. Think you put Trenton Gardner's name on it and it will be his, huh?"

Upon hearing her words, others gaped.

Jared squinted. "Do you mean we've switched your proposal with Mr. Gardner's?"

“Haven’t you?” Amber looked at him coldly. She was pretty excited. “I’ve never thought you would be so shameless. To make Trenton Gardner one of the business partners, you even played such a dirty trick.”

If her proposal was lousy and filtered, she would accept the result.

However, the fact wasn’t like this evidently. Her proposal was excellent. Otherwise, it wouldn’t have been stolen by Trenton, who had also become the business partner because of it. Amber would never let go of this matter easily.

Looking at Amber, who was furious, and Trenton, who lowered his head in the sense of guilt, Jared knew what Amber said was true.

The proposal projected on the screen was written by Amber instead of Trenton.

How dare Trenton steal another person’s proposal and pretend to be his!

Jared narrowed his eyes, his face expressionless.

But everyone could feel that he was angry.

“I didn’t put his name on it,” Jared said solemnly, looking at Amber.

Seeing that, Amber calmed down a bit. “Was it really not you?”

“I disdained to do that,” Jared answered.

Amber bit her bottom lip.

She could tell he meant it.

Hence, he hadn't known that her proposal was stolen by someone else.

"Mr. Gardner, since Mr. Farrell said it had nothing to do with him, you should have done it in person. Please explain why my proposal has changed to yours?" Amber stared at Trenton and asked coldly.

Others were watching the fun and also echoed with interest, "Exactly. Mr. Gardner, please tell us. Is it your proposal for real?"

"Right. Tell us, please."

Upon hearing their questions, Trenton was furious. He patted the desk and stood up, "What can I say? Of course, it's my proposal."

"But Ms. Reed said it was hers," someone said.

Trenton looked over at Amber, his eyes twinkling. He faked being calm and said, "You said it was yours. How can you prove?"

"Can't I recognize my own proposal?" Amber laughed in anger.

Trenton felt guiltier. However, he still didn't admit it. "Okay. Since you said it was yours, please tell me why my name is on it? You can't say I've stolen it. I haven't been to Goldstone or the Farrell Group in the past few days. How did I steal it?"

Amber was taken aback. She couldn't answer the question.

What he said was true. He hadn't been to Goldstone Co. at all. Besides, whenever she finished part of the proposal, she locked it up in her drawer or brought it back home directly. Hence, Trenton couldn't bribe someone in Goldstone Co. to steal it.

Seeing that Amber didn't speak, Trenton became complacent. "You can't answer, can you? Since you can't, you..."

“Ben,” right then, Jared suddenly said.

Trenton looked over at him uneasily.

Jared’s finger knocked on the table. “Did you receive Ms. Reed’s proposal in person?”

“Yes, I did.” Ben nodded.

Jared raised his chin. “It seemed to happen after you’d received the proposal.”

Amber gazed at Ben in doubt.

Ben knew she suspected him of being bribed by Trenton. He waved his hand and shook his head. “Ms. Reed, please trust me. I’ve done nothing.”

He was Jared’s special assistant. How could he be bribed by others?

Besides, Mr. Farrell once told him as long as he could serve in the company for ten years, he would have a 0.5% of the original shares. Although it was minor, according to the stock price of the Farrell Group, the 0.5% would be worth more than four hundred million dollars. Why would he give up four hundred million dollars and accept the small amount of bribe?

“Since you’ve done nothing, please tell me why my proposal has become his?” Amber pointed at Trenton.

She must figure out this matter.

Ben smiled bitterly. “I’m sorry, Ms. Reed. I have no idea, really. I handed your proposal to Mr. Farrell in person. On the way, nothing had...”

Speaking of that, he seemed to have recalled something. His eyes widened suddenly.

Noticing his expression, Jared narrowed his eyes. "Have you thought of something, Ben?"

Ben's lips parted. "I thought of a possibility, but..."

He looked over at Trenton with a complicated gaze.

Trenton's heart skipped a beat. Evidently, he understood something, looking annoyed.

"Ben, please tell us directly," Amber urged him eagerly.

Ben looked over at Jared, asking him for his permission silently.

Jared nodded. "Go ahead."

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Since his boss let him spit it out, Ben didn't hide it again. He nodded and continued, "After I received Ms. Reed's proposal, Ms. Gardner came to my office. She also delivered a proposal. On the way, I went to make a cup of coffee for Ms. Gardner and left the proposals in the reception room. Ms. Gardner was the only person in that room at that time..."

Upon hearing it, everyone understood.

Amber's proposal had been changed by Makenna.

Jared looked down, feeling disappointed.

"Nonsense!" Trenton patted the desk and stood up. Glaring at Ben, he snapped, "How dare you slander Makenna! Jared, this is your good special assistant, isn't he?"

In fact, he also realized that it was Makenna who had changed the proposal.

However, he wouldn't admit it.

"Mr. Gardner, I'm a righteous man with integrity. I told the truth just now. If you don't believe it, I can show you the surveillance record of the reception room," Ben retorted unhappily while looking at Trenton.

He had worked for Jared for several years. Finally, he had achieved his current position. Why would he take the risk to slander someone for no reason? And that person was Makenna Gardner.

If he did so, his career would definitely be ruined.

Trenton paled instantly upon hearing that Ben could show him the surveillance record.

Amber said ironically, "Mr. Gardner, you do have a filial daughter. To help you gain the qualification, she could do such a shameless deed."

"Exactly. We are so impressed by your daughter," someone echoed.

Trenton blushed and paled, feeling so embarrassed that he wished to vanish right away.

He had never been so ashamed like this moment, even not when he was arrested by the police.

After all, when he was taken into the police station, the public didn't know what he had done. However, this time, it was different. All people in this room knew Makenna had stolen another person's proposal. They would even think he had manipulated it. Trenton could imagine how others in the business circle would talk about him in the future.

For a moment, Trenton's heart was filled with hatred.

He hated Amber for exposing the proposal was hers. Why didn't she accept the result and keep her mouth shut?

He hated Jared for not handling this matter in private. Of course, he hated that stupid Makenna more.

"Mr. Farrell." Seeing Trenton couldn't utter a word, Amber turned to Jared on the chairman's seat. "Since the truth has been found, what's your proposal to deal with this matter? Will you let Mr. Gardner keep being the business partner, or..."

"Since the truth had been found, I announce, Trenton's qualification will be canceled. The place will be offered to Ms. Reed. Do you have any objections?" Jared interrupted her words and glanced at other attendees.

Others shook their heads. "Of course not."

Let alone that Trenton's qualification should belong to Amber, they also finished reading her proposal. It was excellent indeed.

"What about you, Mr. Gardner? Any objection?" Jared called Trenton particularly.

Trenton said reluctantly, "No."

Even if he had, what could he do?

Jared nodded and looked back at Amber. "None of them has objections. Do you agree with this decision?"

"Sure." A trace of happiness flashed through Amber's eyes.

Finally, she had won the place of the business partner.

She had won against Bernardo in the bet.

Amber clenched her fists tightly in excitement.

Jared could feel how delighted she was. A trace of amusement flashed through his eyes and disappeared instantly. Raising his chin, he was about to say something when Amer suddenly said, "However, Mr. Farrell, it's not enough."

Other's eyes lit up when they heard her words, becoming interested.

It seemed Ms. Reed was quite ambitious. Besides exposing the truth and winning the place of the business partner, she seemed to aim at more things.

Trenton snapped in anger, "Amber Reed, don't push your luck too far!"

Amber glanced at him indifferently. "Push my luck too far? I'm a victim. Of course, I must fight for my own interests and rights. What's so wrong with it? Mr. Gardner, you are the wrongdoer. Instead of apologizing to me, you blamed me. Haven't you gone too far?"

"You..." Trenton rolled his eyes in anger.

Ignoring him, Amer looked at Jared. "Mr. Farrell, I submitted my proposal, but it was stolen in your company. You are the president of the Farrell Group, so you should be responsible for it, right? Otherwise, who will work with your company in the future? Who dare entrust you with their fruit of labor?"

"I agree with Ms. Reed," someone nodded and chimed in, "Mr. Farrell, you should be responsible indeed."

Jared stood upright. "The Farrell Group should be mainly responsible for this incident. I apologize to you on behalf of my company, Ms. Reed."

He stood up, put his hands on his belly, and bowed at Amber as he spoke.

So did Ben. "Ms. Reed, I was too careless, so your proposal was stolen. I'm terribly sorry."

Seeing they apologized, Amber looked less annoyed.

Then, she looked over at Trenton. "Mr. Farrell had apologized. What about you, Mr. Gardner?"

"Do you want me to apologize as well?" Trenton widened his eyes in disbelief.

Amber smiled. "What's so wrong about it? Although you didn't steal the proposal, who knows whether you had instructed Ms. Gardner to do so? Even if not, you wanted to hide the truth initially and tried to deny the proposal was mine, didn't you? Not until Ben said he could show the surveillance record did you finally admit it. Shouldn't you apologize to me?"

"I agree with Mr. Reed, Mr. Gardner. We all witnessed the things that happened. Just now, you insisted that it was your proposal, not Ms. Reed's. We knew what was in your mind. Please apologize to Ms. Reed. Or you'll disgrace yourself more," someone said with a smile.

Trenton shivered in anger, but he couldn't retort. Otherwise, others would mock him more.

He took a deep breath to suppress the anger in his heart. Then he looked at Amber gloomily. "All right. I'm sorry. Are you happy now?"

"Although you apologized reluctantly, Mr. Gardner, I'll accept it reluctantly as well." Amber said with a smile.

Trenton almost couldn't catch his breath.

Accept it reluctantly ...

He remembered the grudge today.

“Ben,” Jared said, “Please inform the staff. In the future, if Makenna comes to the company, she must have an appointment ahead. She can’t come upstairs to my office directly.”

Ben pushed up his glasses. “Yes, Mr. Farrell.”

“Jared, you...” Trenton gaped at Jared in disbelief. How could he do it?

Amber also couldn’t believe what she had heard.

Jared looked at her through the corner of his eyes. Then he looked at Trenton and said coldly, “Makenna switched the proposals. It’s a punishment to her.”

Trenton’s lips parted. He was rendered dumbstruck.

Amber glanced at Jared.

She had never expected that he would punish Makenna as he had always been tolerant to her without any bottom line.

The sun must have risen from the west.

“Jared, I’m not feeling well. Please excuse me,” Trenton said after taking a deep breath.

If he continued staying here, he would be disgraced to death.

Jared knew he wanted to flee. Nodding slightly in agreement, he said, “Ben, please walk Mr. Gardner out.”

“Yes, Mr. Farrell,” Ben answered. Then he gestured at Trenton.

After Trenton was gone, Jared clapped his hands. “All right. Let’s go on.”

Only then did Amber sit down.

Trenton rushed back to the Gardner’s.

Mrs. Gardner was wearing a facial mask. Seeing him come back, she was surprised. “Honey, why did you come back so soon? Is the meeting over?”

“Meeting? Damn that meeting!” Trenton smashed his briefcase on the sofa.

Mrs. Gardner took off the facial mask. “What on earth happened?” she asked.