

Spoiled by Mr. Russell Chapter 181-185

Chapter 181

Lily had been busy with work recently as the red sandalwood plant, her baby, had arrived. It was just a medium-sized one since the farmers had specially bred it, and Lily placed it in her lab,

When they returned from Middle Valley, Jenny appealed to the higher-ups and requested a personal lab for Lily. Although it was not a huge place, all the necessary equipment was at her disposal. Everyone, from the higher-ups to the administrative employees, was shocked at Jenny's complete change in attitude toward Lily.

Gossips were unavoidable, and many felt that it was unfair for Lily to have a lab for herself. None of them had gotten a personal lab after working for less than three months in the company. Moreover, the company did not recruit Lily the usual way, as she joined it seemingly out of nowhere. Since there were rumors surrounding her before this, it made everyone even more suspicious of her.

Jenny did not bother to explain herself because she did not feel the need to do so. Instead, she left a few words for them. "I gave Lily a test. Anyone willing to try it out, and managed to pass, would get the same treatment as her. I would be fair and request a personal lab for you too."

These few words from Jenny made everyone stop gossiping and swallow their dissatisfaction. Although none of them knew what the second task was, most of them had seen the first task. It was impossible to cheat, and Lily managed to identify the problem in a short time while the others were utterly clueless about it.

As for the second task, they could feel themselves getting a headache from just hearing about it. None of the employees were willing to take up the challenge as they did not think they could pass. Hence, the employees decided to just focus on their task at hand.

Everything outside the lab seemed to have nothing to do with Lily. Once she stepped into the lab, she focused entirely on her work and ignored everything else.

Back in Middle Valley, she had an inspiration, but it was a rough idea until she found the red sandalwood at the nursery. At that moment, she felt she had found what she had been looking for.

She was busy preparing the materials, from washing, drying, cutting, melting, and extracting. When night fell, she finally stopped when she could no longer withstand the pain in her neck. Times like these made her miss Olivia more.

They were partners back then; Olivia would help Lily with the preparation of materials while Lily focused on creating the formula of the perfumes. The duo had their respective roles, and Olivia easily understood what Lily wanted. They had great chemistry, allowing their work to flow smoothly.

However, Nathaniel still did not want to approve of Olivia's resignation. Lily's furrowed eyebrows relaxed a little when she remembered the date today,

She took out her phone and made a call. "Liv, are you free to grab a bite with me now?" Thirty minutes later, the two sat at a food stall nearby Olivia's house. In front of them was a table full of food; hamburgers, fries, tacos, but they were sitting in silence. After a moment, Olivia broke the silence. "Let's dig in."

She picked up a hamburger and took a massive bite as if trying to vent a particular emotion. Looking at her, Lily picked up a hamburger too, but she chewed slowly. In the past, the two would always hang out to grab a bite like this. Thinking back, Olivia spent more time with Lily than Nathaniel did.

The duo said nothing as they ate. When food wrappers were the only thing left on the table, Lily wiped her mouth and removed a contract from her bag. She slid it to Olivia across the table. "Bring it home and read it carefully. We can discuss anything that you're not satisfied with. Lastly, welcome to the team!" Olivia glanced at the document. It was an employment contract, and Rebirth was the employer. However, she just looked at it, shaking her head, and did not intend to pick it up.

"What's wrong?" Lily suspected that Olivia had not yet resigned from MN Inc. "Don't you want to be my partner again?"

Chapter 182

"T-That's not it. Working with you in this industry is one of the best things in my life! I can learn a lot from you, and I love experimenting with fragrances too." "Then..." After some thought, Lily said, "If I'm not mistaken, the company should automatically dismiss you 30 days after you submit your resignation letter, regardless of Nathaniel's approval. It's about time now."

According to the law, Nathaniel could not force Olivia to stay, no matter how unwilling he was to let her go.

"Yeah, it's about time now." Sighing, Olivia said, "The thing is.... my mom won't allow me to resign."

Lily did not expect Olivia's mother to be involved in this matter. "Why doesn't Mrs. Hart..."

"Nathaniel came to my house before this to look for me and met my mom too. My mom trusts him a lot. She believes he's a good boss, and I'm being ungrateful for the opportunities. Plus, he gave me a pay raise, which made my mom even more persistent about me staying at MN Inc."

Olivia leaned back into her seat, raising her head to look at the sky. The sky was dark, and not a single star could be seen. "I've thought about it. I'll just stay there since I don't work seriously anyway. If he's still willing to pay me for doing absolutely nothing at all, that's kind of a good thing for me too!" "Liv, you can't think that way. Doing that will only ruin yourself and your career." To outsiders, it may look like Olivia was lucky to get paid to do nothing, but her wasted time would not return to her. It would put all the experience she had accumulated in the past to waste, and she would miss the best time for career development. It was not worth it for Olivia to do that.

That was why Lily had been trying to bring Olivia to Rebirth with her. She treated Olivia as her true friend and wanted the best for Olivia's career. "My mom won't allow me to do that..." Olivia trailed off while looking at Lily helplessly.

"You don't look like the person who just listens to her parent's words and does not know what she wants to do with her life."

This was a simple case. Olivia's mother probably did not allow Olivia to resign because she felt that MN Inc. was a good company with a good boss and excellent employee remuneration,

However, Olivia would have significant career development in the future once she joined Rebirth. As long as the two communicated this matter well, Lily believed that Olivia's mother would understand her daughter's choice.

Olivia stared at Lily for a moment before she burst into laughter. "I was just joking! I don't want to leave."

Lily was even more astonished upon hearing that. "why not?"

For a long time, Olivia had always insisted that she would follow Lily wherever she went. They could work together no matter where they were. It had only been a couple of weeks, so she did

not believe that Olivia would change her mind. It would not be because of the pay raise Nathaniel promised as well.

"That's because I feel I can help you even more by staying here instead of being by your side," Olivia explained.

Lily did not understand her words. "What do you mean?"

"Melanie has been on a roll since she and Nate returned from Middle Valley. She produced the formula for two perfumes easily, and the labs are busy working on it these days. Nathaniel puts a lot of importance on the new products and believes they would be a big hit in the market," Olivia sat up straight and said seriously. "What does this have to do with you helping me?" "I want to find out how

good the two perfumes could be and see what other tricks they have up their sleeves. If they have a plan to set you up for something terrible again, I can learn about it in time and tell you about it too.”

Olivia had given this some serious thought over the past few days. She believed this was the best way for her to help Lily. Instead of being by Lily’s side, she would stay in MN Inc. and be on the watch for her.

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Lily’s anger was something Olivia had not expected.

“I don’t need that!” Lily was furious; her tone was stern, and her expression solemn.

“Lily, I...” Olivia did not think Lily would react this way; it stunned her momentarily. “A-Am I wrong for this?”

“Of course you are!” Lily emphasized another time. “What do you regard yourself as? What do you regard me as? I know they’ll come up with new products because they have been manufacturing the old ones for quite some time. They would be unable to sustain the business for long without creating new ones.

“However, I’m not interested in their new products or formula! Liv, you’ve been working in this industry for some time. I’m sure you know what you can and cannot do! Do you think it’s right to pry on other perfumer’s formulas? “Do you think I can’t fight them head-on with my skills, so I need you to spy on them for me?” Lily paused for a moment. Then, she said, “Liv, I don’t need you to be on the watch for me. Come over and be my assistant. That’s where you belong.” Olivia did not know what to say. She just stayed silent after Lily reprimanded her. A while later, she apologized. “I’m sorry.”

‘I was wrong. I thought this would be the best way to avenge Lily. However, I forgot that doing so would only turn us into the same kind of person Nathaniel and Melanie were.’ Nathaniel and Melanie stole Lily’s products and formula, and Olivia wanted to pry on their formula and secrets so she could tell Lily about it. If she had done that, she would be the same as the nasty duo.

“Liv, I know you’re only doing that for me, but come over and help me if you truly want the best. I recently had a new idea and have been researching it. I can’t handle everything alone. Come over and help me out since it’s about time you can leave MN Inc.” Lily sincerely said as she pushed the contract slightly toward Olivia again. This time, Olivia accepted her offer and immediately picked up the contract. While skimming it through, she joked, “The pay isn’t any higher than the one I’m getting now!”

“Your pay will increase if you do a good job in Rebirth. Even the bonuses from the projects are lucrative in Rebirth.” Lily chuckled. “Okay then, I guess I’ll do this for you.” Olivia feigned grievance when happiness had filled her up from within,

It was something that called for a celebration, as Olivia could leave a suffocating environment to work with a friend again and do the things she liked.

When Lily reached home, it was already near midnight. She had been too occupied with work recently and often came back late. Fortunately, Alexander had been busy with his work as well. As the two had their heads buried in work, it had been a few days since they last saw each other.

A wave of yearning washed over Lily when she returned to their empty bedroom. She missed him. Back then, she would work till this late as well. She went home alone, slept alone, and managed everything at home alone. Nathaniel would accompany her occasionally, but he would leave after having a meal with her.

She had not felt such loneliness or yearning for Nathaniel before. Now, she was probably used to having Alexander around. She was used to his presence and adoration for her. She had to admit that she had grown reliant on him.

At one past midnight, she climbed into bed after taking a shower. After some thought, she sent Alexander a text. "You're not coming home tonight?"

She fell asleep before his reply came. Exhaustion filled her up from head to toe. She was so tired that she did not wake up when Alexander came back or when he circled his arms around her, hugging her from behind.

She felt warmth and mumbled incoherent words amidst her sleep as she turned around to face him. Stretching her limbs, she hugged him back. No, she practically sprawled over him, rendering Alexander speechless.

Chapter 184

Alexander had rushed home in the middle of the night because of Lily's text. However, his wife did not look at him and simply snuggled into his embrace. He did not know whether he should be glad or mad at her.

Glad because she was willing to get closer to him. Mad because she did that so easily. What if the person on the bed was not Alexander but someone else?

"Lily. Lily..." he called her name softly in her ear.

"Shut up! You're so noisy!" Lily waved her hand. Dissatisfaction was written all over her face.

Alexander was speechless. 'She said I was noisy, but she hugged me tighter and snuggled deeper into my arms. Did she think she would not hear anything by doing so?'

Alexander wanted to say something at first but just sighed in the end. 'Forget it. I'll just say it tomorrow! She's my princess, after all.'

He soon relaxed in the bed and fell asleep with Lily using him as a human pillow.

Lily had a great sleep. When she woke up, she felt fresh and wanted to stretch her arms, but she could not move them. Opening her eyes, she saw the handsome face belonging to her lover.

"Alex?" she called out in surprise. "When did you come home?"

Alexander opened his eyes, his dark orbs staring back at her. Finally, he could let out his words from last night. "Hmph! You snuggled into my arms without knowing who I was. Do you even know how to keep yourself safe?"

He used his hand to knock her forehead lightly because he did not want to hurt her.

Lily put her hand to her forehead and asked, "Is there another man in this house except for

you?"

"What if it was a robber?"

"Oh, please! Do you think that the security guards of Imperial Hills are just decorations? How could a robber get in here so easily? Even if someone were to barge into the neighborhood, you have a burglar alarm system installed in this house, don't you?" she said casually, thinking he had just asked a terrible question.

Her words surprised him. "How'd you know I have a system in this house?"

Lily was speechless. After all, she had been staying there for quite some time. She could tell a burglar alarm system was installed after a few looks around. While this system may not be as practical as the one used at the Lodge family's residence, it was substantial enough for the average person.

"1... guessed it!" She thought of a cover and continued, "Don't you watch TV? People with your level of wealth and status would always set up some protection barriers around their houses to prevent burglaries."

Lily raised her brow after saying that, satisfied with herself for coming up with such a reasonable excuse.

"Can I think of it as you feeling safe around me?" Sensing that she wanted to get up,

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Alexander reached for her wrist and pulled her back into his embrace.

“Alex quit messing with me. I need to head to the lab now.” Lily struggled to get away from him. She would not feel at ease before completing her research. “You spent more time in the lab than with me recently. I should consider taking the personal lab back from you,” Alexander muttered as he snuggled into her neck. ‘Boss! You can’t use work to get back at me for our private matters!’ Lily thought.

Chapter 185

Melanie was anxious. They had arrived for quite some time, but Eloise was not there

“It’s all right! I’m sure she’s late because there’s something she needs to attend to first,” Nathaniel comforted her in a soft voice. However, he was not confident in his mother’s attendance, either.

After all, Eloise did not want to meet Melanie, and Nathaniel was the one who insisted on this meet-up

Just as he was about to leave the private room to make a call, the door opened, revealing Eloise’s personal assistant. Once Eloise entered the room, her assistant left and closed the door to be on the watch outside.

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Eloise wore a gray Chanel suit, and her hair was recently permed. With just a glance, Melanie could recognize Eloise’s earrings and bracelet. They were both from the latest jewelry collection this year. She felt envious of Eloise.

Even though Eloise was a middle-aged woman, she only looked around thirty-five years old because of her skincare routine for the past decades. She maintained her figure and appearance well, too. At that moment, Melanie wished Eloise would publicly acknowledge Nathaniel as her son. She could not help but feel disappointed at this thought.

Unfortunately, Nathaniel was the son Eloise had with her ex-husband. That meant she could not acknowledge him as her son in public, and he could inherit none of her wealth. If Nathaniel had been Eloise’s successor, Melanie would not have risked her life and gotten involved with Frank. She only did that so she could have another option in life.

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“Mom,” Nathaniel went over and greeted Eloise at the door. Then he turned to Melanie. “Mel, come here.”

“This is Melanie. I’ve told you about her before,” he said as he circled his arm around Melanie’s waist.

Eloise glanced briefly at Melanie as a greeting. After removing her blazer, she sat at the table, picked up her cutlery set, and ate. She was a picky eater and had high standards for food. The dishes served by this restaurant suited her taste and provided great privacy for their customers. Hence, Eloise often met up with Nathaniel here.

It had always been the two of them all these years, and today was the first time someone else joined them.

“Mom. How are you doing lately?” Nathaniel followed suit and sat down. The first thing he did was express his concern for Eloise. “I heard you bought over another company. Hudson’s health isn’t in the best condition, so I’m sure you’ve been tired.”

Eloise was eating her food with elegance. After taking another bite, she said casually, “You don’t need to worry about all that.”

“Yeah! Mom, I know you’re a strong woman, and you’d be able to handle anything. I want to thank you for helping with my company’s matters. If not for you, I never would have figured out the solution.”

Melanie was shocked by how Nathaniel thanked his mother. It was customary for Melanie to be nervous, but she did not expect Nathaniel to feel the same way.

He spoke so formally with his mother and was so polite that it was clear they were not close to each other. This was not how a son usually talked to his mother but how a subordinate would report to his boss.

Eloise stopped eating and placed her cutlery down. She then took out a piece of tissue to wipe the corners of her mouth before crumpling it and throwing it on the table.

“Nate, you handled this matter poorly.”

“Yes, I admit my mistakes. I’ve been too careless, which allowed Lily to tamper with the formula. This tiny mistake almost cost the company...”

Before he finished his words, Eloise interrupted, “No, that’s not what I was referring to. I meant to say you handled your romantic relationships poorly.”