

Spoiled by Mr. Russell by Luminous Night Chapter 201-205

Chapter 201

“No company can last long if it has no innovation. It’s also a problem I’ve been thinking about recently. I plan to make the changes before the market demand forces us.” Nathaniel tapped his finger on the table and looked at everyone present.

“It may seem like we’re on the losing and since our competitors know our formulas, but don’t forget these old products have been around for a while. Even if we didn’t publicize it, some interested rival companies might have already developed it.

“That is to say, ‘ven if our old products still sell well now, they will soon lose their competitiveness. We should aim toward developing new products instead of how to protect the older ones. That should be our focus to ensure our sustainability.” Nathaniel stood up and pressed down on the table with both hands.

His points were sound and reasonable as he came fully prepared. The board of directors was initially skeptical, but his words were reasonable and made them contemplate further.

“You might be correct, but where is our new product? According to the quarterly report, we haven’t produced new products for the past half year. The previous new product award had resulted in a lawsuit and many other problems. If I’m not mistaken, we had another crisis last month, correct?” Another person asked.

“That’s right. We don’t believe in empty words. As shareholders, we need to see the actual benefit. You need to develop something that can reassure us, Mr. Hall!” When someone raised a concern, the others followed suit.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Quinn. The reason I mention the new products is that we are already in the process of developing them. We currently have two new products which should be ready soon. I’m also very confident they will be a hit,” Nathaniel smiled in reply. Mr. Quinn nodded and said, “Is that so? If that’s the case, that would be great! However, I heard Ms. Christian developed our past outstanding products. Ms. Thayer’s fame was undeserving. What’s your explanation on this, Mr. Hall?” “Those are all just rumors. Of course, I’m also at fault for trusting the wrong person and ultimately getting framed. As for Ms. Thayer, I can assure you all that she is the one who developed these two new products this time. She also made our previous best-sellers, so you should all trust her abilities.”

Nathaniel paused for a moment as his expression turned happy at the mention of Melanie. “In addition, there are two things I would like to announce. Firstly, these two new products will represent MN Inc. in the annual perfume competition after we successfully develop them. I am highly confident they will bring glory and profit to the company.

“Secondly, in marrying, Melanie Thayer. I promise everyone I will not let my personal relationship affect the company’s interest. Instead, Ms. Thayer and I will do our best to make MN Inc. better!” Nathaniel’s explanation cleared the shareholders’ doubts and concerns.

Everyone had initially attended the meeting to question him on the situation. His reasoning sounded reasonable, and the future looked promising, so they no longer questioned him. "If so, I would like to congratulate Mr. Hall in advance. I hope we will have two things to celebrate in three months!"

Nathaniel smiled in glee. He knew in his heart that there would not be two but three things to celebrate.

Melanie was right when she said it was better to daringly admit their mistake as they could not undo Lily's damages. This way, Nathaniel could earn the shareholders' favorability. She was his lucky star, after all.

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Nathaniel glanced at the group photo of himself, Melanie, and Lily on the desk when he returned to his office. He boldly displayed the photo in the office because three of them were in it. He was not afraid that Melanie would see it because he and Melanie secretly held hands in that picture.

He was already dating Melanie back then. On the rare occasion when the trio took photos, he would stand closer to Melanie. Lily had never noticed it as she had never paid too much attention to such details.

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Lily had always been indifferent to such things, which made him wonder when she noticed him using company funds to take Melanie out on vacation and buy her gifts. Nathaniel did not understand. Why did she wait until now to mention it when she had known about it for a long time? He could only think of two possibilities. The first one was that Lily did not know it before and only found out somehow recently. The second one was that she had known about it for a long time but pretended she was ignorant and unaware. Either possibility was scary to Nathaniel. Their confrontations just reinforced his sense that he had never really understood her. It made him wonder if she was still the Lily that he knew.

Nathaniel clenched his fingers tightly one by one. His anger had reached a breaking point. He might have looked calm facing the board of directors, but he had been panicking the day before. He feared he could not reassure the shareholders, and it would be game over for him.

Luckily, Nathaniel convinced and persuaded them to believe in him. They were satisfied with his explanation so far.

However, things would not be so simple if the shareholder got to know the truth. He dared not bet whether Lily had any evidence on this matter. After some contemplation, he gave in after weighing the pros and cons. What Lily wanted was just Olivia. Then, so be it. He would give Olivia to her.

Olivia was just a burden. Since she wanted Olivia so much, he would generously give her to Lily!

If Melanie successfully developed the new products and won the award, they would become a hit in the market and easily rake in profits. Would he still need to be concerned about Lily?

Nathaniel dialed an extension number and said solemnly, "I am Nathaniel. Revoke Olivia's non-competes clause! That's right. Yes, that's all. Don't need to worry about this anymore."

Melanie still went to the laboratory after resting for a few days. She was not eager to go as the odor of chemicals and solutions was unpleasant. She went, nonetheless, after considering her future fame and status.

She had “authored” the formula but still had to put on a show and participate in the research and development process. Melanie must, at the very least, show up in person. Having supervised and participated in the entire procedure, she would not be stumped if she were questioned later. Melanie could not bear the consequences if someone like Lily showed up again.

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The sound of ideas was always beautiful. Melanie wanted to do it herself but became nauseous after being enclosed in the lab for too long.

She felt this was understandable and forgivable because she was pregnant. Melanie then prepared a cup of coffee and supervised from outside. It was bad for the fetus if the mother drank too much coffee while pregnant. Melanie was aware of it but still contemplating: whether to keep the baby.

After assessing the pros and cons, she decided against having the child. At least, not now. However, Nathaniel desired it greatly. If she got an abortion, it would undoubtedly strain their relationship. Nevertheless...

‘What a tough decision!’

The phone vibrated. Melanie thought it was Nathaniel asking where she was, but when she picked it up, the call was from Frank. She was inexplicably flustered. Melanie quickly looked left and right, but thankfully no one was there. She then set the coffee cup down, stood up, and went to a secluded spot in the corridor.

She answered the phone, “Hello?”

“Babe, did you miss me?” Frank’s teasing voice was laced with a bit of mischief. Melanie was silent for a moment. “Yes, of course I do! I wish you’d appear in front of me right now. Though I know, I can’t stop you from pursuing your art, so I can only miss you silently.” After all, she was close enough to Frank to know what he wanted to hear.

“Really?” He was pleased. “What are you doing now, then?”

“I’m in the lab. The formula is most important, so I have to do it myself. I couldn’t let you down.” After pleasing him, Melanie hoped to gain some added benefits, and she softly said, “I believe these two products will be a hit, and we can use them to participate in the annual perfume competition. By the way, will you be there?” Frank laughed and asked her a piercing question, “Are you trying to find out if I’ll be a judge? Isn’t that right?”

Melanie was silent again.

That was what she meant, and since he had already exposed her intentions, she no longer needed to hide it. She admitted and replied, "Yeah! I wonder if there's a chance to bribe the judges?"

"Do you really want this opportunity?" Frank asked with a bit of sarcasm. When she heard the implication of his words, her eyes flashed brightly, "Really? Are you going to be a judge?"

Everyone knew that the annual perfume competition was strict. Based on fairness, some judges would be recruited from abroad in addition to local judges. The judges themselves would be notified before the competition, and they would not make the list public.

Therefore, it was impossible to bribe in advance. She was testing her luck, but she did not expect to succeed! If Frank was one of the judges,

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then winning the award would not be a problem. With Frank's perfume formula, his votes, and then using his connections to sway the other judges, winning first place would be a piece of cake!

Melanie's thoughts were whirling rapidly. With such a basic question, she had already considered every potential outcome. It was as though she already had the gold award in her hands. Her smile was radiant.

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"If you really want it, you must seize every opportunity!" He said this meaningfully and then hung up.

Melanie did not understand what he meant until he sent a text with an address. It was in Sapphire, not too far from the location of the laboratory.

In an instant, she understood. Frank was on his way! Melanie was holding the phone with a trembling hand since she did not think he would return so soon. Clearly, she was going to live a tryst. She honestly wanted to refuse. This was Sapphire, not Middle Valley. It was possible to run into acquaintances, not to mention Nathaniel was there as well, so if anyone saw...

Her heart was conflicted. Frank seemed to have visited casually, and his words were also quite laid back. However, it was a ruthless decision to make.

If she declined, it was the same as rejecting him. This implied that she would have to give up her advantage in the judges' decisions for the annual perfume competition.

Melanie had already taken the first step, so it was impossible to turn back now. No matter what, she would continue with gritted teeth. She just had to find a way to save herself, or her body would collapse before she got what she wanted. After weighing her thoughts, Melanie quickly made a decision. She went downstairs and took a cab to the address he gave. It was a hotel. Frank typically picked a hotel when he traveled. He did not stay in one spot for long before moving on after a few days.

After he left Sapphire, Melanie was unaware of Frank's whereabouts or activities, but she did not need him to stay there for long. She only wanted to take advantage of him.

Melanie quickly lowered her head to avoid the security cameras while wearing a scarf that tightly covered her face. She then got on the elevator, found the room number Frank had given her, and knocked on the door. After a few seconds, the door opened, but Frank did not jump up and hug her as she had imagined. Instead, he opened the door, turned around, and went back in.

He did not even change his clothes. He was still sporting a shirt and pants, but his shirt was only partially buttoned, and his hair was scruffy.

Melanie entered the room somewhat startled, then turned and shut the door. After giving it another thought, she relocked the door before removing her sunglasses and scarf.

Then she walked over and hugged his waist from behind. "What's wrong? Aren't you happy to see me?"

Frank patted her hand before turning to sit on the couch. He squinted as he gazed up at her before lowering his head and grabbing a thin tube. It was only then that Melanie saw what was on the table. She had seen it on television many times but never tried it. She immediately understood what he was doing and got goosebumps.

"Frank, you..." Frank ignored her, closed his eyes, and leaned back heavily. He had fallen into his own world, forgetting everything else. It was as if nothing had anything to do with him. Melanie was shocked!

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Melanie wanted to escape at that moment, but she just stood there instead. Her feet were rooted to the ground, and she could not move. Melanie thought of all possibilities, and her whole body turned cold as she started trembling.

"Frank," she whispered his name, seeing that he seemed asleep. She wanted to leave and immediately get out of there. Suddenly, Frank opened his eyes abruptly. His eyes shone brightly, just meeting hers.

Melanie did not expect that, so she released a frightened "Ah!" and stepped back.

Seeing her terrified, panic-stricken face, Frank laughed indifferently. He sat up slowly, swept all the things on the table into the trash can, and raised his hand to wipe his nose and the corners of his mouth. Then he stood up.

Melanie stepped back when she saw Frank approaching step by step, gradually retreating to

the base of the wall. She had nowhere else to go. "Frank, No!" Seeing him raise his hand, she turned her head away in fright and closed her eyes tightly. However, he just pressed one hand against the wall, imprisoning her between himself and the wall. Then he tilted his head and looked at her, smiling, "What are you afraid of?"

"I'm not afraid," she said shiveringly.

"Really?" Frank held Melanie's chin with one hand and turned her face to look at him. "Open your eyes!"

Melanie kept quiet. She could not control her body if she wanted to obey him. She closed her eyes tightly and wanted to forget what she had seen just now.

“If you don’t open your eyes, I’ll put those things in your mouth.” His voice was soft, and his tone was very light, but what he said was evil.

Melanie was shocked and quickly opened her eyes. Not only did she open them, but she opened them wide for fear that he would do what he said.

“Heh,” Frank chuckled lightly, rubbing his thumb on her delicate lips, “That’s right! I like obedient girls the most!” “Don’t worry. I won’t tell anyone about this!” Melanie raised a hand and swore as she said whatever came to her mind.

Frank did not seem to take it seriously at all. He shook his head and said, “Do you think I’d be afraid if you said anything?”

Melanie was silent because she knew what he said was true. If Frank were afraid, he would not have done this in front of her. He was simply evil.

“Frank, I’m willing to do whatever you want me to do, except this.” After thinking about it, she picked it out and said, “Please!”

“Please?” He laughed out loud, “How so?” Frank stopped her suddenly, held her hand, and said lazily, “All right!”