

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 16

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Chapter 16 He Protected Me Fiercely

"So, Eve, which of those handsome men do you like?" Perhaps because of my strange expression, Louise suddenly leaned closer to me and whispered me that question

Uneasily, I whispered back, "The person who took me to the hospital that day is among them."

"Really? Which one?" Curious to know who I was looking at, Louise followed my gaze. "Is it the good-looking man in the white shirt who's currently smoking?"

Not only was Derek handsome, he also had a presence that could not be ignored. It was perfectly reasonable for Louise to notice him at a glance. The second I nodded at her, she grabbed my wrist and dragged me towards Derek.

"Stop it, Louise!" I did my best to stop her, but it was to no avail.

Though I did want to say thanks to Derek, I had no intention of doing so at such an occasion

"There's no need to be afraid, you know! You're already acquainted with him, yes? Let's just go say hello!"

Louise would never listen to me. She had practiced Taekwondo and was twice as strong as I was, so there was no way I could stop her.

"Hey there, handsome! Long time no see.

In reality, she had never seen Derek before, but she was talented at engaging with people. I was the one who knew him, but I was far too reserved to utter a word.

As Derek leaned against the sofa, he suddenly looked up and locked his bright eyes on me.

This was an unexpected encounter, so it was normal for me to be flustered.

"Excuse us, but we're old friends with him. Do you mind letting us sit with you

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“Excuse us, but we’re old friends with him. Do you mind letting us sit with you guys?”

Louise said to the others at the table. She pressed me down next to Derek, and then she combed her hair before sitting down herself.

When she pressed me down, I lost my balance and fell butt-first beside Derek. He managed to hold me up with an arm just in time. It was then that I smelled his masculine scent. It overwhelmed me to the point that my cheeks turned red.

I was so embarrassed that I wanted to leave immediately, but Derek tightened his grasp on me. Obviously, he didn’t want me to leave. Instead, he suddenly leaned close to my face, almost as if he was about to kiss my ear

“Are you still mad at me for what happened? I think it’s time to forgive me, don’t you think so, too?”

The sound of his magnetic voice flowed through my ears like an electric current. His voice was loud enough for everyone present to hear him clearly.

His abrupt words confused me and made blush yet again

One of the men at the table, the bald middle-aged one, looked at me with curiosity for a while.

“Who is she?” he asked Derek.

“My girlfriend,” Derek answered without hesitation.

His declaration shocked everyone at the table, including Louise and myself.

The bald man glanced at the girl sitting next to him with regret in his eyes.

"It appears that my daughter is too late," he said.

"This is most unfortunate. It seems that my daughter and Mr. Sullivan are not meant to be together, either. But you know, Mr. Sullivan is a very private person. I didn't even hear that he already had a girlfriend," another man at the table, the one with the beer belly, sighed.

Upon hearing their remarks, I gathered what was happening. These men wanted to match their daughters with Derek, and showed up just in time for him to use me as an excuse.

Those two girls were both young, beautiful, and quite charming. Then, I noticed that they were casting me cold glares. I felt wronged by their stares. But there was no way I could explain myself regarding this matter now. Derek had helped me a lot. If I could return the favor to him this time, it would only make us even

"So, which family is this young lady from?" The bald man seemed as though he wanted to humiliate me.

I couldn't answer his question.

I was not a lady from a rich and noble family. If I were to tell them of my origins, it would only humiliate Derek.

Derek put out his cigarette, held my hand while it was on my leg, and smiled at them.

"My future wife," he proudly declared. 2

The way he protected me fiercely at this moment was the same as what he did at the hospital that day. When I remembered every word he said that day, still felt as moved as I did before.

Derek's words had rendered them speechless, and it stifled their envy and curiosity. For a time, an awkward atmosphere pervaded. Finally, the man with the beer belly raised his glass and proposed a toast, alleviating the awkward tension.

Judging from how things looked, they seemed to be trying to get on Derek's good side.

Who on earth was Derek? What kind of business was he doing?

I thought that I could gather some clues from their conversation, but I couldn't. They only talked of unimportant matters.

From time to time, the two middle-aged men would toast to Derek. Not once did Derek refuse them, but throughout the duration of the conversation, he never let go of my hand

Later on, when I said that I needed to go to the restroom, Louise said that she wanted to accompany me. It was apparent to me that she was curious about my relationship with Derek. I had known her long enough to know that it wasn't easy for her to just sit there in silence without so much as asking a question

And sure enough, before we were even far from the table, Louise placed her arm around my shoulder and questioned me.

"Hey, hey! When did that happen, huh? You're really something, Eve! You managed to hide something so big from me successfully."

I had no idea how to react to her question. "Aren't you supposed to be smart, Louise? He's clearly using me as an excuse to refuse those girls!"

"Oh? But why does it seem so real? Judging from how he looks at you, I don't think he's merely acting," Louise refuted.

"That just means he's good at acting," I said.

Truthfully, I had no idea how he was looking at me. I was feeling too embarrassed and nervous to look back at him.

After repeatedly telling Louise that there was nothing special between me and Derek, she finally decided to let me go.

Once I had used the toilet, I had merely taken a few steps away from the restroom when I stopped in my tracks.

Not far away, there was a man who was pressing a woman against the wall, kissing her passionately. It was my devil of a husband, Shane.

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Chapter 17 Know Your Name

I thought my heart had already grown numb, but I was still hurt by what I was seeing

My husband had never kissed me that passionately.

I had even completely forgotten what day it was until I saw a man walk past with a bouquet of roses in his arms.

Shane and Vivien must have come here to celebrate Valentine's Day.

He had never been one to remember this kind of occasions before. I had foolishly thought that he was just realistic and sensible by nature, and had even convinced myself that this made him a suitable partner.

Needless to say, I regretted everything my younger self had believed in the past.

Now, the realization that these two were always in heat for each other, no matter what day it was or where they were, made me sick to my stomach.

“Hey, isn’t that Doctor Hayes over there? What a coincidence! Are you here to celebrate Valentine’s Day with your mistress?”

Louise had shouted on purpose, effectively turning heads from the people milling about around us.

The shameless couple finally parted their mouths and pulled apart. At first, Shane raised a sardonic eyebrow at Louise, but when he finally saw me, he froze. A strange sheen came over his eyes.

“Eveline?” Vivien exclaimed in shock. She clearly couldn’t believe it was me.

I knew why they were so surprised.

I wasn’t the type to dress up. In fact, I only ever wore simple clothes. And as long as the garment was repairable, I never threw a single piece of clothing away. But every woman wanted new clothes every once in a while, everyone knew that. Every woman wanted to look beautiful. It was the painful understanding of my dire finances that held me back from such luxury. In the end, all I got in exchange for my prudence was betrayal. What bitter irony

Today, however, Louise had given me a makeover from head to toe. Even I had almost been unable to recognize myself when I’d looked in the mirror, let alone these two, who had always looked down on my paltry appearance.

“I must say, Doctor Hayes has excellent eyes. Your mistress is really good looking. She has the standard face of someone who has gone under the knife.”

By saying this, Louise mocked both Shane and Vivien at the same time. In turn, they wore identical, sour expressions. “I can’t believe what you’re doing, Eveline. You’ve lost your job, yet you still have the gall to play around like this. It seems that you don’t even want to support your mom anymore.” Perhaps Vivien had realized that Louise was not someone she could trifle with, which was why she had shifted her barbs over to me.

The mention of my mother made my chest ache. Then, from the corner of my eye, I noticed Louise stepping forward in Vivien’s direction. My hand instantly shot up to stop her. I knew she was about to let loose on the enemy.

And Vivien did deserve a beating, but all four of us would only humiliate ourselves if we took this any further.

Knowing my intention, Louise sighed and crossed her arms over her chest. She looked Vivian up and down, her eyes filled with disdain.

“Let me ask you, Miss Mistress, do you know how to make people know your name in a matter of moments?”

The sudden question threw Vivien off. She was visibly confused.

Then Louise lowered her gaze to Vivien’s belly and scoffed. “It’s when you walk down the aisle with a bulging belly, or worse, holding a baby. Everyone would know your name then, am I right?”

Vivian paled and seethed. But she continued to aim her anger at me.

“So what if I do either of those things? The fact remains that Shane wants to marry me and create a family with our child. What about you, Eveline? You’re pathetic! Look at you, did you dress up today in an attempt to seduce some unsuspecting idiot? Who would be so blind as to marry a moron like you?”

To be honest, if Louise hadn’t called out to them first, I would have just pretended that I didn’t see them.

But now that the bitch who had stolen my husband was acting all self-righteous and putting the blame on me, I couldn’t hold it in any longer.

“There was indeed an idiot who was so blind as to marry a moron like me back then. But anyway, that idiot had been taken over by another stupid woman now.”

As soon as I finished speaking, Louise flashed me two thumbs up.

Shane’s face turned a shade of red deeper.

Vivien, on the other hand, gaped and blinked at me. This was the second time they had both been insulted in one breath, and it was obvious that she didn’t know how to retort. In the next second, she moved closer to Shane and clung to his arm.

“Did you hear that, Shane? She was just pretending to be docile in the past! It turns out she’s quite good at making insinuating remarks.”

I snorted, the corners of my lips lifting. Then, in a very calm voice, I said, “I never make insinuating remarks. My words are always said with intent. If you feel insulted, that’s because I meant to insult you.”

Louise’s eyes lit up with pleasant surprise. She leaned back against the wall and cocked her head at me with unmistakable approval. It was like she was telling me I now had the ability to deal with this immoral couple.

Well, it did feel much better to berate those who had wronged me instead of bottling up my anger.

Inspiration struck me. I chuckled softly and slowly walked up to Shane.

“What are you doing, Eveline?”

Vivien tightened her hands around Shane’s arm, clearly afraid that I might snatch him away. Briefly, I thought of how ignorant and childish she was. Had she forgotten that this man was still legally bound to me? Not that I cared about that anymore.

I reached out and dropped a piece of mint gum into the pocket of Shane’s suit jacket.

“Chewing gum before kissing a woman,” I reminded in a quiet voice, “is a way to show her some respect.”

He scowled at me at once, as though I was the one who had betrayed him.

I knew what kind of a person he was. Even if he had abandoned me, he would still expect me to hold on to his leg and

beg for his affection just to satisfy his vanity

Well, I was done stroking his ego. I wanted to show him that I didn’t care

about him at all.

I was pleased with Shane’s reaction, so I turned on my heel and walked away. I didn’t want to stay in this place for even another second

“Who do you think you are?” Vivien screeched behind me. “You’re just some washed-up woman who was driven away by her own husband.”

That made me stop in my tracks.

How dare she? She was the whore who destroyed other people’s marriage.

My wounds hadn’t even fully healed yet. If they continued to pick at it, I might just never move on from the pain.

I gritted my teeth. My fists shook at my sides. Just when I felt like I would crumble, a strong arm circled my waist and pulled me against a broad chest. The next thing I knew, my back was pressed

against the wall.

“I have chewed gum,” Derek said in a hoarse voice. His face was just a few centimeters away from mine, and his burning eyes were fixed on my lips.

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Chapter 18 I Like Your Unique Taste

My mind went blank the moment Derek kissed me.

His lips were so soft. He lifted a long, chilly finger to tip my chin upwards as he deepened the kiss. I could feel the

goose bumps appear all over my arms.

I wasn't in a state of mind to resist him, but I didn't kiss him back either.

"Wow!"

I heard a few exclamations from the people around us, followed by some applause and raucous whistles.

That was what brought me back to my senses. I was just about to pull away when Derek himself ended the kiss.

He stayed close, however, and he stared at me tenderly.

"I like your unique taste."

His voice was magnetic and sexy, pulling me deep into the illusion that we were truly lovers

I averted my gaze, inadvertently catching sight of Shane's glum face.

"There are very few women in the world who can make Derek lose control of himself like this." A male voice suddenly

called out, his tone teasing.

I turned around and saw a man in a casual black shirt sauntering over to us. He had one hand tucked into the front pocket of his jeans, while the other one was holding a cigarette. He was smirking

I remembered this guy. He was from that night at the mountainside, the one who had said Derek was good at picking up chicks. It seemed like he didn't recognize me at all, which was expected. After all, I looked nothing like I had when we had first met

He stopped in front of us and blinked at me with a playful smile. Then he patted Derek's shoulder

"I'll be waiting for you at our usual card table upstairs."

Derek responded without turning to look at his friend, and his warm breath brushed against my forehead.

"You should know better than anyone, Mr. Felix Chadwick, that a beauty is more important than any game of cards.

You can go upstairs first."

His words made me flush, and I could feel my ears burn with embarrassment. The man called Felix Chadwick said nothing more. He gave Derek another pat on the shoulder, then left while humming a song under his breath.

"Don't forget that you are still a married woman, Eveline," Shane blurted out, his tone spiteful

Louise rolled her eyes and flipped her short hair. She then tilted her head in his direction and sneered, "That's rich, coming from you. Aren't you a married man yourself?"

A round of mean laughter came from

our little audience. It appeared that they had already figured out the messy situation that was unfolding before their eyes. For my part, I simply couldn't comprehend how Shane still had the nerve to say these things.

As for Vivien, the shameless mistress, she took the opportunity to stir up more trouble. "Do you see, Shane? This should be enough to make you believe what I said. Look, she isn't faithful to you at all. How dare she kiss another man in front of her husband? What a bitch!"

How ironic that she was dishing out the word "bitch" when she was the one who deserved the title the most.

It was all so ridiculous, it was almost hysterical

But to see Shane's livid face was well worth it. It felt gratifying.

Meeting his furious eyes, I gently snaked my arm around Derek's and said, "Are you off to play cards now? Let's go!" Derek straightened and gave me another dotting look. "Shall we?"

I'd thought that he wouldn't care about the conflict he had walked into, but I was mistaken. Just as we were about to pass by Vivien and Shane, he stopped in his tracks and glared at her.

"Are you sure you know what a bitch is? I think you're rather confused with its definition. Try looking in the mirror and see what a bitch actually is."

Louise chortled at that. She raised an eyebrow at Shane

"You're here to have fun, Shane, aren't you? I wonder if you have the guts to engage in high stakes gambling."

Despite her taunts, I was convinced that Shane wouldn't take the bait. He didn't like gambling, nor did he have the means to do so.

Derek pulled me into the elevator, Louise in tow. The doors closed slowly, shutting out the bar's loud music. He reached out and pressed the nine with a slender finger

I realized then that it wasn't appropriate

for me to be holding on to him like this. I began to withdraw my arm, only for it to be held in place by his other hand.

His palm was warm against my skin, that single contact making my whole body heat up.

I was flustered. Louise shot me a pointed look, her lips curling mischievously. I knew I would have to suffer her aggressive questioning again later.

The casino on the ninth floor was massive, and everyone knew Derek. People turned their heads and greeted him as soon as we arrived, and then they would peer at me curiously.

At some point, someone stopped him to discuss something at length. I grabbed the opportunity to pull away, and fortunately, he didn't stop me this time.

I stood to the side and waited for them to finish their conversation. Felix spotted us then, and began to wave at us conspicuously. Derek dismissed the other man and took my hand again, his movement smooth and graceful, as if it was the most natural thing in the world.

We walked over to Felix's table. They happened to have just ended a round, and they all stood and gave us their seats. Of course, Felix remained. He toyed with a deck of cards, a cigarette between his teeth.

Louise was fond of playing cards as well. This kind of scene was nothing new to her. She chose a seat and plopped down.

"I haven't played in so long. Please allow me to join you."

Felix took a drag on his cigarette and whistled at her. "Of course, sweetheart, you're most welcome here." He flashed her a cheeky smile.

Derek tuned to look at me. "Do you know how to play?"

I shook my head sheepishly.

"Let me teach you, then." He ushered me to a chair, his hands on my shoulders. He pushed me down to sit.

But I wanted to flee. Not only did I not know how to play, I also didn't have the money to gamble at all. I didn't even

know how much the stake was. I probably couldn't afford it.

As though knowing my thoughts, Derek squeezed my shoulders and smiled knowingly.

"Don't worry. If you lose, I will pay on your behalf."

"Shane! I didn't expect you to actually show up here. Are you sure you brought enough money with you? Or are you planning to toss that woman beside you as your bargaining chip?"

I whirled around before Louise had even finished speaking. Needless to say, I was shocked speechless to see Shane and Vivien walking toward our table.

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Chapter 19 At The Card Table

I didn't expect Shane to lose his common sense after a handful of mocking words.

Louise turned to me and grinned, but I couldn't bring myself to feel happy about this development

My instincts were telling me that the stakes in this casino were very high, and nothing any of us ordinary people could afford to even contemplate.

Shane came from a poor family. He had studied and toiled hard to escape that kind of life, and I respected him for it.

I never imagined that he would actually squander his savings by keeping a mistress. Now, he was even inviting more liabilities by walking into a casino.

He might have hurt me deeply, but I still cared enough to not want him to throw away his fortune so carelessly. It wasn't

as if money grew on trees. More importantly, he was his parents' only child, and the elderly couple hadn't even gone into retirement yet.

"Shane, are you sure you should be here?"

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Derek frown at my words, but it was gone in the next second

My concern flew past Shane's head, however. If anything, he seemed even more motivated after hearing what I'd said.

He strode over and plopped himself on the chair directly across mine. Then he took out a bank card and tossed it on the table with an arrogant snort.

"Are you implying that I can't afford to be in a place like this? I'll be playing today, Eveline."

I felt my jaw drop in astonishment. I never knew he could be this childish and narrow-minded.

At that moment, I felt that Derek

reached over and put an arm around my shoulders. Then came his soft whispering, slightly tickling my ear.

"Eveline, being too soft-hearted can be a bad thing sometimes."

I stiffened, the truth of his words hitting me like a physical blow.

Even Derek, a man I didn't know all that well, could tell that I had spoken for Shane's own good. Yet the very man I had been married to for two years had actually taken my question as an attack.

I was absolutely pathetic.

"Deal the cards," Felix barked all of a sudden, gesturing at the staff attending to our table.

Before I knew it, each of us was holding three cards in our hands.

I had thought that Derek would participate as well, but he had declined the card the attendant had initially offered him. Instead, he just sat back and fixed his eyes on my hands.

One of his arms was still around my

shoulders as he leaned in to inspect my cards. He was so close that his hair lightly swept across my cheek every so often.

It was a very odd setting. Shane and I were still husband and wife, but here we were, sitting across a card table, held by two different people. The table suddenly felt like an arena for our personal vendettas.

As it was, I knew nothing about the game. I didn't know the rules, and could barely keep track of what was happening. All I knew was that after a few rounds, the large pile of chips in front of me was gone.

I looked around and realized that Louise and Felix hadn't lost nor won all that much. It looked like it was just me who had lost my chips to Shane.

I began to squirm in my seat. Although Derek had already offered to pay if I lost, I would truly be ashamed if I caused him to lose a lot of money because of my ignorance.

"Your woman has some pretty shitty

luck, Derek," Felix teased.

His comment fueled my unease.

"He's right. I don't think I should be playing any more cards today. Shall I just quit?" I started to push my chair back as I spoke, preparing to leave the table.

Derek quickly squeezed my shoulder. A lazy smile slowly spread on his handsome face

"It's okay, just play however you like. It's only the beginning. We don't know who's going to win in the end."

I didn't even trust myself, knowing how clueless I was. So I wondered why Derek had this much confidence in my abilities.

As for Vivien, well she was never the type to maintain her cool. She was sporting a smug grin as she eyed all the chips Shane had won so far.

Not that I was any better in keeping my composure. I felt very frustrated with myself, and I knew it showed on my

face.

"Just relax, Eve. Your man can afford it,

even if you lost all the games you play tonight."

Louise was purposely saying this to goad Shane further.

But the man was in such a good mood, it just bounced right off him. With the amount of money that Shane now had, he didn't seem to care about anything else.

I lost several more rounds after that. I was beginning to genuinely fear that I might damage Derek's finances.

"How about I quit now?" I turned to look at him. I hadn't felt him approach at all, but he was so close that my lips accidentally brushed against his chin.

My face burned at the unexpected contact.

Derek looked taken aback as well, but his surprise soon turned to something mischievous. "Don't be embarrassed," he said softly with a sly smile. "You can kiss me whenever you want,"

His voice carried over to the rest of the

table, and I was certain that everyone heard what he said. I silently prayed that the floor would open up beneath me and swallow me whole.

But then, I saw Shane's expression darken. He pulled Vivien flush against him, then groped her breast even as he stared at me. What a perverse, immature display of revenge

"Hey, if you're just going to flirt all night, you might as well go home," Felix piped up jokingly, raising an eyebrow at his friend.

Derek ignored him and gave me another long, affectionate look before finally pulling away. "Okay, then. Let's play one last round. It's your turn to be the banker, Eveline. Let's play for something big this time, shall we?" After saying that, he pushed all the remaining chips I had to the center of the table.

"Fine, count me in." Felix put his cigarette back between his teeth and threw in all of his chips as well.

Louise looked around the table and smiled, then quickly followed suit.

Shane, however, said and did nothing.

I knew he was in a dilemma. He wasn't as rich as the other players to begin with. Naturally, he couldn't just decide to bet away everything he had on the spot.

But Vivien was not so indecisive. Being the greedy idiot that she was, she leaned forward and pushed all of Shane's chips forward. It was clear she didn't want to be looked down upon by backing out of the game now

"Of course, we're in, too!" she said.

I took a deep breath, fidgeting with my fingers. Derek quietly reached out and held my hand beneath the table.

“Show your cards,” he said calmly. “This is going to be the last round.”

Felix glanced down at his hand and cursed under his breath. He threw down his cards, followed by Louise. Shane was still staring intently at his cards. He was

Chapter 19 At The Card Table obviously scared of losing.

Vivien was boring a hole through his cards, too. Shane slowly revealed his hand, and as soon as his cards landed on the table, she practically jumped out of her seat.

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Chapter 20 Not Enough Money

Upon seeing how excited Vivien was, I was overcome by complicated emotions.

I didn't want Shane to lose miserably, but I didn't want Derek to lose money, either.

But a gambling table was similar to a battlefield, where there would always be winners and losers.

I now realized that I had made a mistake by sitting here today.

Before I could even show my cards, Shane lost his cool. He slammed his cards onto the table triumphantly. It was then that some onlookers exclaimed, “A nine! What a lucky man!”

“Damn it!” Louise cursed in a lowered voice, leaning back against her chair in frustration.

“What the fuck? How could that guy be

so lucky?” Felix was not convinced, either.

At this moment, I barely had the courage to check my own set of cards.

“Go on,” Derek softly muttered as he gave me a pat on the shoulder.

Cautiously, I turned over my first card. I wanted to cry when I saw it. Although I had no idea how to play this card game, I at least knew that a three was the worst anyone could get.

"Keep going." Derek was still as calm as ever.

My second card was still a three. I wanted to tear up when I saw it.

Shane could tell from my expression that my cards weren't good. Thus, he smirked at me with a smug look on his bastard face.

"Hurry up, Eveline! What are you waiting for?" Vivien urged me.

"Show them your cards," Derek said to me with a smile.

I took a deep breath, and gently turned over the third card. Not long after, I heard him chuckle.

When I tilted my head and saw the smile on his face, he stood up, took the cards from my hands, and threw them onto the table with finesse.

All of a sudden, the people around began to laugh and scream! Some of them even jumped around, and others thumped on the table. The onlookers became even more excited than the players,

themselves.

My last card was another three. It wasn't until later that Derek told me that my hand was also a nine, but it was a greater form of nine than any other.

Louise breathed a sigh of relief, glancing at me with a smile. "Eve, I don't mind losing to your man."

Felix's mouth was left agape, causing the cigarette to drop from his mouth. It took him a while to regain composure and then he shortly burst into laughter.

"Damn it, Derek! Your woman has the luck of the gods. It seems that she has stacked up all her luck for the last round. You've won another three million dollars," he cursed.

Three... million dollars?!

I was so surprised that I could not close my mouth.

Just one round had a wager of three million dollars?

Derek had sat down, with one arm casually placed on the back of my chair. It was as if he barely cared if he won or lost three million dollars.

The second I found out the result, I turned my attention to Shane. At this moment, his face had turned deathly pale. Vivien refused to believe what happened either. She grabbed my cards, staring at them over and over, until she finally sat back down unsteadily.

"Listen, handsome, I don't have that much money with me. Can I just give you an IOU note for now? Or perhaps... I can sleep with you to pay off my debt?"

Louise suggested.

Upon hearing her proposal, the men around us burst into laughter.

Derek licked his lips, grinning like an imp. He gently held me in his arms and said to Louise, "Since you're Eveline's friend, talking about money won't be appropriate. You can pay for your debt by treating us to dinner some other day."

I never expected that Derek would be so generous. In order to save face for me, his fake girlfriend, he generously gave up three million dollars like it was nothing.

At this point, I was becoming more and more confused and curious of his identity. Who on earth was Derek Sullivan?

Though he could waive what Louise owed him, I could tell that he had no intention of waiving the three million dollars that Shane owed.

Just as I had anticipated, Derek finally said, "Doctor Hayes, how would you like to pay me? A bank transfer or would you like to swipe your card now? The staff

can help you out."

The second he said that, two employees in black suits came to Shane's side and bowed to him respectfully.

"This way, sir."

Shane's face turned red with anger. He grabbed the bank card he had thrown onto the table earlier with difficulty.

Although he had never let me be in charge of the management of his money, I knew how much money he had. I was certain that it wouldn't amount to three million dollars. At best, it had three hundred thousand dollars.

Meanwhile, Vivien could no longer act arrogantly. She probably knew Shane's background already

The audience's gazes and increasing whispers made Shane shrink down with embarrassment.

I stared at him, different from how the audience was looking at him. Then, I let out a sigh.

He didn't have to take part in this

gamble in the first place, but he had already done it. Shane was no longer young and impulsive, and yet he still did something so childish. And now, he couldn't afford to pay for the consequences of his actions.

"Shane, do you even have three million dollars in that card?" Louise declared loudly, deliberately humiliating him.

Shane's face turned red as he held his card tightly. After a long time, he finally said through gritted teeth, "Can I write you an IOU note?" 1

Derek chuckled, slowly lighting another cigarette

"Shane, you really should know when to admit defeat. If you can't afford to lose, you shouldn't have participated. Since you wanted to play, you must have the courage and the ability to bear the consequences of doing so."

"The fuck? If you didn't have enough money, then why are you even playing here?" Felix cursed impolitely.

Louise smiled and said, "Shane, I have a

suggestion. Use that woman by your side and tell her to sleep with another man, so you could pay for the debt you owe."

Everyone laughed again.

Vivien was becoming flustered hearing all of this. She held Shane's hand as tight as she could, seemingly afraid that he would really whore her out to pay for the debt.

"Don't do it, Shane."

"No?" Derek asked in a slightly loud voice. Then, he puffed out a smoke ring with a smile.

Though his question was simple, it had a deeper implication. It made me turn my gaze towards him with disbelief.