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He grabbed me hard, then hauled me out of the bathroom and placed me on the bed. He wrapped a towel around me before squatting in front of me. With both hands tightly holding my shoulders, he looked up at me and spoke softly. "What exactly happened?"

He was calm. Even when I had an angry outburst, he still managed to remain calm.

I shook my head vigorously as my eyes reddened, croaking out, "Ashton, do you love me?" I didn't know why I asked this question, but there was no turning back now.

He stiffened for a split second and frowned while looking at me with an

intense gaze. "Love isn't a word you just throw around, Scarlett!"

But you said it to Rebecca. My heart clenched in my chest, and I almost screamed out the words.

"Then what is it?" I lost control of my tears and choked out, "Ashton, you don't love me, do you?"

"Scarlett!" His low voice sounded strained. "Tell me what happened, okay? Why are you suddenly asking for a divorce?"

"I don't love you. I really don't!" My eyes were red-rimmed and the pain in my heart had spread to every part of my

body. "I don't love you as much as I thought. I'm still young and there are countless opportunities for me to find someone I truly love, so let's get a divorce and set each other free, okay?"

From the moment I met Ashton, I never thought that there would come a day where I'd beg to leave him.

I thought that as long as I worked hard enough and offered him my heart, body and soul, one day, he would come to appreciate me and perhaps even love me.

Unfortunately, I forgot that there were too many uncertainties in life. In this world, many things could be yours as

long as you worked hard, but love was an exception.

It was already a blessing from God if two people found love in each other, because most people could only dream of getting that!

The temperature in the bedroom seemed to drop sharply, chilling me to the bone. Even so, I bowed my head and averted my gaze.

After a long time, he drew in a breath and said in a commanding tone, "Rest well. We'll talk after you've calmed down!"

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He stood and left the bedroom right after saying that short and concise sentence.

That night, Ashton left the villa while I stayed up all night.

Even so, we had to move on or else the world would leave us behind.

After a sleepless night, I arrived at the company bone-tired. When Stacey noticed my pale complexion, she asked in concern, "Ms. Stovall, did you stay up all night to read the documents? Company audits aren't that difficult, so don't put too much pressure on yourself. Your body has

pressure on yourself. Your body has just recovered so you still need to take care of yourself!"

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I nodded as my head buzzed slightly. After reviewing Fuller Corporation's financial statements, I moved on to Quinn Corporation's.

Noticing that I kept yawning, Stacey brought me a cup of coffee and asked, "By the way, Ms. Stovall, will the company's external audit be given to AC Credit or Harrison Credit?"

Thinking about this problem made my head spin. The middle-aged man from yesterday asked me to hold a tender, but left everything else vague.

Perhaps I could use this to my

advantage. I contemplated for a while before answering, "How long will the audit take?"

"In previous years, it took about half a month, but I think this year, it'll take at least one month!" Stacey spoke while placing the audit information from the previous years on my desk.

I gave it a cursory glance, already feeling a pounding headache as I queried, "How much longer do we have this year?" Every year, the company's audit had to be published on the Economic Network upon completion.

Fuller Corporation is a listed company, so many stockholders and investors were waiting to see it.

"Not much, there's only one and a half months left, but Fuller Corporation has branch offices in other provinces. Although you don't need to visit every branch office, you'd still need to visit a few of them. Otherwise, there's no way for you to understand the specific situation."

I nodded and put away the documents. Checking the time and seeing that it was already noon, I looked at Stacey and ordered, "I need to meet the president of Harrison Credit. Make an appointment for me. The sooner the better!"

"Yes!" She paused a beat before continuing, "Do you still want to see

continuing, "Do you still want to see the president of AC Credit?"

I originally didn't plan on seeing him, but thinking about what happened last night, I couldn't help but wonder if it was all AC Credit's scheme to grab this deal.

After giving it some thought, I replied, "I'll see him. Did AC send some of their people over again today?"

"Well," Stacey hesitated before continuing, "The president of AC Credit, Thomas Lowe, is waiting in the reception area downstairs."

The president himself came here? It seems that Fuller Corporation's audit is

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indeed a big catch.

"Make a reservation at a restaurant nearby for me." I got up and took my bag with me. "Do it quick. I'll go down to meet Mr. Lowe first."

"Yes!" Stacey left in a rush after that.

Once out of my office, I went straight to Fuller Corporation's reception area. Fuller Corporation was based in an enormous office building, and with its abundant funds, a luxurious and relaxing reception area was set up in the lobby on the first floor to welcome any guests.

Most employees were on their lunch

break now, so there weren't many people left. Hence, when I arrived at the reception area, I immediately spotted a middle-aged man sitting on the black leather sofa. Thomas seemed like a buoyant person, and I noticed that he looked rather fit for his age.

Seeing me, he got to his feet and walked toward me with a smile. Extending his hand out for a handshake, he greeted me, "Ms. Stovall, I'm the founder of AC Credit, Thomas Lowe. I'm glad you could meet me!"

I returned his smile and said, "Sorry for the wait, Mr. Lowe, but I've really been

very busy lately, so I couldn't find the time to meet you until now." I checked the time on my watch, then looked back at him. "Since it's currently lunch hour, would you like to have lunch together, Mr. Lowe?"

He smiled subtly and nodded. "Sure, Ms. Stovall. And thank you in advance!"

Both of us didn't talk about work just yet. When we arrived at the restaurant Stacey pre-booked for us, Thomas still didn't mention anything about the audit.

He only shared with me some interesting events in his life, and it looked more like a gathering between

two friends. Since he didn't bring up work-related matters, I refrained from it as well, only quietly listening to his narration.

After some time, he peered at me and asked, "Ms. Stovall, I heard that you're responsible for Fuller Corporation's audit this year?"

I nodded brusquely. "After the company went public, Mr. Fuller and Mr. Quinn basically don't have any spare time on their hands, so I had to temporarily take over this project."

He smiled. "In the past years, Fuller Corporation's audits were all handled by AC Credit, and now..."

He trailed off, but of course I knew what he meant. With an amicable smile, I replied, "Fuller Corporation and AC Credit have worked together for many years. Logically speaking, AC should be put in charge, but AC's contract with Fuller Corporation has expired. According to our standard practice, Fuller Corporation will organize a bidding event. Of course, I hope AC and Fuller Corporation can once again cooperate after this bidding."

This revelation led to the conclusion of our discussion. Thomas smiled, replying in a polished manner, "Mm. We are also looking forward to working with Fuller Corporation."

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After lunch, I sent Thomas off. Stacey followed beside me and questioned, "Ms. Stovall, didn't Mr. Fuller want this year's audit to be handed over to Harrison Credit? Why do we need to hold a bidding event?"

"If we don't, Fuller Corporation won't just offend AC Credit, but many other audit firms. AC has been in this business for a long time. Moreover, they've been working with Fuller Corporation all these years. If we terminate the collaboration just like that, do you think they won't create a ruckus by using Fuller Corporation's past audits?"

Another reason I agreed to meet Thomas was that I wanted to see if he

Another reason I agreed to meet Thomas was that I wanted to see if he had something to do with last night's incident, but after glimpsing the reluctant look on his face after I mentioned the bidding event, I doubt that he was involved.

However, I couldn't be too sure. Thus, I decided to keep an eye out.

Stacey nodded with a frown on her face. "Then, why didn't Mr. Fuller..."

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"Inform me beforehand?" I interjected. My eyes darted to hers before I explained, "I'm not Ashton's only subordinate. If he has to explain every little thing word by word, then what's the point of employing so many people? He might as well do everything on his own."

"But you're his wife!"

I found it funny, looking at her to say, "Yes, I'm his wife. Putting aside the fact that he's not satisfied with me as his wife, even if he was, he's still the president of Fuller Corporation, while I'm the director. In the company, we are

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superior and subordinate. If I'm so stupid that I need him to point out everything, he might as well tell me to go home and be a full-time housewife!"

In the world, pure intelligence would get you nowhere; only experience slowly accumulated from hard and laborious work would bring you far.

Back in my office, Stacey made a dinner appointment with the president of Harrison Credit. I didn't mention last night's incident to anyone, only keeping it locked up in my heart and bearing it on my own.

Fortunately, the company was huge, so I didn't have to meet Ashton if there