

# **The Understated Dragon Lord**

## **Read Chapter 331 - 350**

### **Chapter 331 Back Off**

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Jessica made her stance clear. She hardly cared what Daniel had said. His mouth was known for spouting nothing worthwhile, and his words were rarely sincere. She never took what Daniel said to heart; she judged him by his actions.

Knowing that her daughter wasn't heeding her advice, Avery was determined to push the matter with Daniel – she wanted him to see reason and bow out.

Avery pulled out a check, briskly filled out a number, and slapped it down on the table in front of Daniel. He stared at it, bemused.

"What's the meaning of this, Avery?" he asked, grinning playfully.

"This is a million dollars! For a bumpkin from the hills like you, you won't find any good jobs in the city, earning at most two to three thousand a month. You would never make this much in your lifetime. But now, all you have to do is make the right decision, and this million is yours."

A million was almost like pocket change for Avery. She was using this to coax Daniel into leaving, wanting her daughter to see how cheap he really was – that he could be bought off with just a million.

This kind of lowlife was not fit to become Avery's son-in-law – not in the slightest.

"The right decision? I understand," said Daniel, taking a sip of his orange juice to wet his throat before turning to Avery with a look of deep affection. "Mom!"

Jessica nearly choked on laughter. This idiot was truly something else. She herself had trouble calling Avery 'mom,' and here he was, shameless as ever.

Daniel's words infuriated Avery. "When did I give you permission to call me 'mom'? I'm not your mother! You're not my son-in-law, and you never will be! This million is to make you scram! Leave

Jessica and never see her again!"

"The market value of TMO is in the hundreds of billions. Avery, this million might be enough to change how I address you, but it's not enough to make me leave Jessica. After all, I'm no fool. Between a company worth hundreds of billions and a million-dollar breakup fee, I know which to choose."

"You..."

Avery was livid, sputtering with rage. She turned on Jessica. "Listen to him! He's eyeing your TMO! Marrying him would be like bringing a wolf into the house!"

"Who's a wolf is still up for debate!" muttered Daniel under his breath.

At his remark, Jessica promptly gave him a fierce look.

"Who did you just call a wolf?"

"I did! I did! Wolves are such feeble creatures, not worthy of you, Jessica. Even wolves would shiver when they see a tiger like you!"

"You..."

Jessica punched Daniel playfully. "So, in your eyes, I'm that fierce, huh?"

"You're not fierce! Not at all fierce! It's just that when you tell me to go east, I wouldn't dare head west."

"You could go west if you wanted! You know what will happen if you do."

"Of course, I know the consequences. I'd just have to lie down and take my licks, right? After all, I'm yours forever, and you can do with me whatever you please."

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## **Chapter 332 The Poor Aren't Entitled to Love**

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As the flirting continued unabated, Avery's anger simmered. Her stunning eyes widened, the fury boiling over.

"Enough!" Avery erupted, bringing immediate silence.

"Mom, are you mad?" Daniel asked in his irreverent tone.

"I am not your mother, and don't you dare call me that!"

"You're not my mom? That's odd. Avery, are you suggesting Jessica isn't your biological daughter, but someone you picked up from a trash heap?"

"You're the one who's been picked up from a trash heap!" Jessica snapped, kicking Daniel lightly under the table with her heel.

"Ow! Mom, you better control your girl; she's kicking me."

Daniel shamelessly provoked Avery, only to earn her wrath in return.

"Country bumpkin, shut your mouth! If you call me 'mom' one more time, I swear I'll tear your mouth to shreds!"

After calming herself down, Avery spoke with grave seriousness.

"Country boy, you have two choices. The first - take this one million, leave my daughter, leave New York, and never show your face in this city again, nor contact my daughter!"

"Trying to buy my love with a million dollars?" Daniel shook his head, firmly refusing. "I won't do it!"

"Love?" Avery scoffed with a cold laugh. "A country bumpkin earning two to three thousand a month thinks he's entitled to love? Do you really think you're worthy?"

"So the poor aren't entitled to have love?" Daniel questioned her.

"Unworthy!" Avery replied without hesitation.

"Unworthy? That would be you, Avery! You're unworthy of a poor man's love. Only your daughter deserves it!"

Jessica couldn't help but giggle at Daniel's retort. Who would have thought this idiot could leave her own mother speechless?

"Country boy, enough with your nonsense here! Stop trying to charm me with words! Next week, Jessica has to return to New York for her grandfather's eightieth birthday celebration."

Before Avery could finish, Daniel eagerly butted in, looking expectantly at Jessica. "There's going to be a banquet for your grandfather's big birthday, right? Are you taking me with you?"

"Of course!"

Jessica was definitive in her reply, though she well knew that at her grandfather's birthday, her mother would undoubtedly arrange her marriage, trying to marry her off to some guy named Smart from the Evans family whom she had never even met. She was determined to make her own choices about her marriage.

"What did you say? If you dare to bring that country nobody to the doorsteps of the Matthews family, I'll break his legs myself! He's nothing but an embarrassment!" Avery lashed out, then continued from where she left off.

"At your grandfather's birthday, the Matthews family has already made its decision. He will sanction your marriage to Smart from the Evans family right there and then!"

"What now? Hold on, Mom, that's totally not okay! Jessica and I are legally married spouses. Are you actually planning to marry her off to someone named Smart during granddad's birthday? She's your daughter! Are you really going to marry her off to an idiot? What are you thinking?"

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## **Chapter 333 A Cunning Plan**

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"What stupidity? You country bumpkin, shut it and stop spouting nonsense here!"

"It was you who said it! You want to marry Jessica off to an idiot!"

"He's Young Master Smart of the Evans family; he's not an idiot!"

"Oh! So he's the Evans family's little idiot? You mean to say the Evans have more than one idiot? Besides this little one, there's a bigger one?"

"Heh heh!"

Avery snorted coldly and then said slowly, "You dare call Smart an idiot? And you dare say there's a bigger one in the Evans family? If you really have the guts, don't say it to my face. Go and call him a little idiot to his face!"

"Mom, what are you doing?" Jessica quickly interjected.

"What am I doing? He was the one calling Smart a little idiot, not me. Does this country boy even know what he's doing? Daring to insult Young Master Smart of the Evans? If Smart hears you, he'd flay you alive!"

"He's trying to steal my girl. Calling him an idiot is being polite! If he really ticks me off, I'll slap him so hard, we'll see if he still dares to compete for my girl! My girl is mine alone. Anyone who dares to fight me for her, I'll slap some sense into them, so they know exactly what they are!"

"You'd dare slap Smart? I bet you're all talk. If you actually faced him, you'd probably cower like a dog."

A quick thought struck Avery, and she suddenly had a plan. She taunted Daniel, "You, country boy, you want to marry Jessica, don't you? Well, Smart will be at the party we're holding for my father's

big 80th birthday. If you're man enough, you'll meet him there! I'd like to see what a nobody from the boonies can do against Smart, what you could possibly do against the Evans!"

"Fine! I'll be there!"

Daniel fearlessly agreed right away. Just the Young Master of New York's second most influential family? To Daniel, that was nothing.

He never took those pomp types seriously.

After dinner and leaving the restaurant, Jessica twisted Daniel's waist angrily.

"Ow! Honey, why are you twisting me? I didn't do anything!"

"You're not coming back to New York with me! You're not going to that party! You're not going to mess with Smart!"

"Why the heck not? He's trying to steal my wife, and you want me to hide away like a spineless turtle?"

"You can't mess with Smart! You can't touch the Evans! If you provoke Smart, if you mess with the Evans, you'll end up nowhere! The Evans are second ranked in New York's 'The Eight Families.' For Smart, taking you down would be as easy as squashing a bug!"

Jessica wasn't being dramatic; she knew the terror of New York's 'The Eight Families.' To them, an ordinary guy like Daniel was nothing more than an ant.

"So what if 'The Eight Families' are strong? Does that mean they can be unreasonable? Does that give the Young Master of 'The Eight Families' the right to steal my wife?"

## Chapter 334 Hatred

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"He won't take you away from me; don't worry," Jessica assured her. In her mind, she was resolved not to accept Smart's proposal, no matter what. She would rather die than marry Smart.

"Even if he can't take you away, I still need to go! It's a competition between men; how could I push you to the forefront while I hide behind? Would I still be a man then?"

"You..." Jessica was trying to do what was best for him, but this stubborn idiot wouldn't give in. She decided not to press him anymore. As long as she didn't divorce Daniel, by all accounts, he was her husband.

Smart would eventually have to find out; she couldn't hide the truth forever. Instead of trying to conceal it, she thought she might as well be proactive.

"I've got an idea," she announced.

"You've got one? We haven't done anything! How could you be...? Are you telling me you've been unfaithful? For god's sake! I married such a beautiful wife and haven't touched a hair on your head, and now you're having someone else's child?"

"What are you yelling about? Me having a child? I'm still a virgin; how could I possibly have a child!"

Jessica retorted irritably.

"You're not pregnant? Then what is it?"

"I have an idea!"

"What idea?"

"It's about taking you back to New York, making sure you get through without being killed by Smart."

"Killed by him? I'm like a cat with nine lives; he won't be able to touch me. If that idiot dares to come at me, I'll make sure I take him down first!"

"You're not allowed!"

"Why not?"

"He's the young master of The Evans family. If you really killed him, it would be like declaring war on The Evans!"

"I'm not afraid!"

"I forbid you from killing anyone! If you dare, I'll leave you."

"Can I just beat him up a bit?"

"Suit yourself."

Jessica was reasonable; she just didn't want Daniel to become a murderer, to stain his hands with blood. Him getting into a fight and giving Smart a beating, on the other hand, was something she had no objections to.

Still curious despite claiming he didn't need to know, Daniel asked, "What's your idea, anyway?"

"My grandfather's ill!"

"I know he's sick!"

Jessica looked at him doubtfully. "How do you know he's sick?"

"Of course, he's sick! If he wasn't, why would he marry you off to that idiot on his eightieth birthday? He's not just sick; he's got a mental illness. And I'm the cure!"

Jessica twisted his waist hard in frustration, eliciting another usual, pitiful yelp from him.

"My grandfather is a war hero; he's been shot and carries a lot of related ailments. There are a bunch of old health problems that even the best hospitals and doctors in the USA haven't been able to cure. If you manage to cure my grandfather's longstanding illnesses, he might end up liking you.

He's the head of the Matthews family, and everything in The Matthews family is his decision. So, if you win him over, make him reject Smart's marriage proposal, we could resolve everything perfectly."

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## Chapter 335 A Bad Idea

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"Is this your bad idea?" Daniel questioned with a smirk.

"What are you talking about? How is making use of my skills a bad idea?" Jessica replied, slightly defensive.

"So, you're asking me to put on a show? That's what it is, right?" Daniel elbowed back.

"Are you unwilling to treat my grandfather or are you just lacking the skill?" Jessica challenged.

"Who says I'm not skilled? What will you do if I actually cure him?"

"What do you want me to do?" she challenged back.

"Make love to me!" Daniel blurted out brazenly.

"Sex? Impossible. Not until after the one-year trial period," Jessica retorted firmly.

"You're cruel! How can you expect me to remain single with such a beautiful wife? Besides, shouldn't sex be a part of the trial? If you don't test that and it turns out I'm not good enough, wouldn't that be tragic after a year?"

"If you're not good enough, then I'll kick you to the curb!"

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The next day, after an entire night discussing with Jessica, Daniel had learned about her grandfather, Kind Matthews's health issues. The chronic illnesses plaguing Kind were not things that could be cured with acupuncture alone; he needed certain herbs.

Thus, Daniel decided to visit an herbal medicine market to buy the needed ingredients, intending to make some medicinal pills for Kind to eat. Combined with acupuncture, these could potentially bring

about a full recovery.

As soon as Daniel stepped out the door, a two-tone Rolls-Royce pulled up in front of him. An elderly man stepped out of the car and bowed to him, saying, "Young Master, good day."



His gesture took Daniel by surprise.

"Sir, I think you may have mistaken me for someone else. I don't know you and I'm surely not any 'young master.'"

"You are Daniel, correct? Raised in Dragon field, and you've only left there recently," the elder persisted.

Daniel nodded, "Right."

"Young Master, you are the grandson of New York's premier family, The Perkins. My name is Logan Roberts; I am the butler of The Perkins and your servant, here to ensure your safety."

Daniel stood flabbergasted.

"The Perkins are in trouble, and you must stay out of sight, especially not in New York. The other members of The Perkins must not know of your existence!"

Logan handed Daniel a business card. "I mustn't be seen meeting with you. Young Master, if you need anything at all, just call this number. Whatever you require, I'll see it done."

"You say I'm the young master of The Perkins family in New York, but who are my parents? Where are they? How come they've never visited me?"

"The affairs of your parents cannot be divulged to you just yet. You must strive to become the head of The Perkins and take control of the family before that secret can be revealed. Sharing it with you

now could end your life!"

With those last words, Logan walked away, and Daniel stood there, business card in hand, dumbfounded. Could it be true that he was the young master of the distinguished Perkins family of New York?

Daniel quickly pulled out his phone and began to search online. There was absolutely no information about Logan to be found, and anything about The Perkins was just as obscure. Had he encountered a con artist?

But then, what could they possibly want to scam from him?

As Daniel pondered, a woman's sharp voice suddenly interrupted his thoughts.

"Country boy, what are you up to?"

## Chapter 336 I'm Going to Supervise You

### Chapter 336 I'm Going to Supervise You

He turned toward the voice and saw a beautiful woman in an office suit striding confidently towards him on her high heels. Who else could it be but Brittany?

"What I'm doing is none of your business. You're not my wife, you have no right to question me!"

"Country boy, it's working hours, and you're not in the office? You're skipping work!"

"Skipping? Jessica gave me an exemption from clocking in. So, even if I took 365 days off a year, I wouldn't be skipping!"

"You..."

Brittany stamped her foot in frustration, then interrogated, "Instead of being in the office during work hours, what are you skulking around here for? Are you planning something bad?"

"How could I possibly do anything bad in broad daylight? Even if I wanted to, I'd have to wait for night-time!"

"Country boy, did you just slip up? If you're not earnestly in the office and loitering in the streets instead, you must be up to no good!"

"I didn't want to do anything bad, but now that Brittany is here, you're giving me some ideas," Daniel shot back, his gaze making Brittany instinctively take a step backwards.

"Country boy, what are you trying to pull?"

"Didn't you want me to be bad? If you're asking for it, then maybe I should indulge you!"

"You... you better behave! If you dare to bully me, you'll see how I deal with you!"

Brittany threatened him in the air with her nails, indicating her readiness to fight back.

"Move aside if you don't want to see 'bad.' Otherwise back off!"

"Why should I back off? I'm going to supervise you! Wherever you go, I'll follow. You're an employee of TMO, and I must fulfill my duty to oversee you. I absolutely will not allow you to do anything bad outside that could damage TMO's reputation!"

This was less about Brittany worrying over Daniel doing something bad and more about her wanting to skip work while sticking to him. Of course, Brittany would not admit that she might have feelings for this country boy. She merely convinced herself that if she didn't scold him every hour, she would feel uncomfortable. In her mind, hassling Daniel was only about giving herself something to vent at – she wanted to treat the country boy as her private plaything.

"Give me your hand."

This abrupt request from Daniel left Brittany dumbfounded.

"Give you my hand? For what?" she asked suspiciously.

"I notice you've been a little pale. Are you on your period? It's not regular, the flow isn't sufficient, and you have stomach pain. I thought I'd check on you kindly, then later on, I have to go to the herbal market anyway and could easily pick up some herbs for you to ease your discomfort. Don't get me wrong! This is just friendly concern, nothing more. When I prepare these herbs for you, it's not because I like you. After all, anyone who marries a bitch like you is asking for trouble. Even if all the other women in the world were gone, I still wouldn't marry you!"

"Country boy, did you just call me a bitch?"

"Well, aren't you acting like one? All day long, you're fiercer than a bitch could ever be!"

"I'm going to kick you dead!"

With that, Brittany launched a kick squarely at Daniel.

## **Chapter 337 Acupuncture**

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Daniel quickly stepped back, dodging the attack. Brittany, having exerted too much force while on her period, pulled a muscle in her stomach, causing a sharp pain.

"Ah! Ahh!" Brittany clutched her stomach, crouching down on the ground, screaming in agony.

"Just now, what did you say? That you were going to kick me to death? Come on, do it! Kick me to death!" Daniel taunted her, hovering around in front of Brittany, infuriating her to the point that her face turned green with rage.

"You... you're bullying me! Waaah..." Tears started rolling down her cheeks as she clutched her stomach and wept.

Daniel took a needle from his pocket and waved it in front of Brittany's eyes, then asked her with a mischievous smile, "Want me to treat you?"

"Get lost!"

"You should trust my skills. Just one prick of this needle and your pain will vanish."

"Scram!"

"Are you sure you don't want treatment? This isn't just any needle. A few pricks and I can guarantee you won't feel pain during your periods ever again."

"You..." Brittany was ashamed and angry at once.

Yet she reconsidered, knowing the country boy might have impressive medical skills.

"Are you positive you can cure me?"

"Absolutely," Daniel replied earnestly. "But I'll need you to expose some skin for the acupuncture, and this is a public street. It wouldn't be appropriate – as your colleague, I can't let passersby get a free show."

"What do you mean?"

"If you want acupuncture treatment, Brittany, you'll have to pay for a room yourself." Daniel motioned toward a building nearby. "This hotel is pretty nice, it's five-star. The environment and facilities should be up to par."

"You..."

"What's wrong? You don't want to? Fine, then don't. It's your problem, not mine. You're the one in pain, not me. I'll be on my way."

"Country boy, you'll rot in hell! Don't you dare walk away! Stay right there!"

"So, Brittany, you're agreeing to get a room with me?"

"Don't even think about it!"

"If you won't get a room with me, then why call me back? What, want me to watch your period pains? Disgusting with the smell of blood!"

"You're the disgusting one!"

"Since you say I'm disgusting, I won't impose on you any longer," Daniel said, waving goodbye. "See you!"

He actually walked away, leaving Brittany fuming.

"Don't go! Help me get to the hotel! If your acupuncture doesn't cure me afterward, you'll see how I'll deal with you!"

"How will you deal with me?"

"I'll make you pay!"

"How? By dying a happy death or a comfortable one? Though you're on your period today, so even in the best hotel room, there isn't much we can do, is there?"

"You..." A flush of embarrassment rushed over Brittany's face, and she punched Daniel in the arm, cursing, "You're such a jerk."

Daniel helped Brittany into the hotel. At the reception, he cheerfully requested, "One room, please. A big bed, the presidential suite, the most expensive one you have."

"Get lost! Just give me a standard room!"

Her request was more modest, but Daniel had already begun the process of caring for Brittany, playfully navigating through her indignation and pain.

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## **Chapter 338 Lose Money**

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The receptionist couldn't help but smile at the amusing exchange. It was clear this wasn't the first room these two had booked together – the woman's insistence on a standard room instead of the most expensive suite was a giveaway, likely a couple who'd been married and understood that money shouldn't be squandered.

"So, which one of you spouses is going to pay?" the receptionist asked with a knowing look.

"Me!" Brittany asserted, quickly taking charge. Then, thinking it over and realizing it gave the wrong impression, she decided not to clarify that she and Daniel were not together. If she did, how would it look? Like an affair? And if she said Daniel was there to give her acupuncture... well, that sounded even more far-fetched.

With a reluctant sigh, Brittany let the misconception persist.

"The standard room will be 1598 yuan, plus a 1000-yuan deposit, so a total of 2598 yuan. Will you be paying by card or cash?"

Brittany didn't intend to part with her money but instead gave Daniel a fierce look and commanded, "Pay!"

"Why should I pay? Didn't you say you'd take care of it?"

"You pay up front!"

"I don't have it."

"How can you not have money? Don't think I don't know you've saved up quite a bit. Get it out now!"

Knowing she wouldn't voluntarily pay up, Brittany resorted to a desperate move.

"You insisted on dragging me to this hotel, swore that you would pay for the room, and now you're asking for my money? You really want to bleed me dry, don't you?"

"You..." Brittany blushed with embarrassment and anger. It sounded as if Daniel was insinuating she was something akin to a lover!

To save herself from further embarrassment and despite being internally furious, Brittany begrudgingly took out her bank card and paid for the room.

Once in the room, Daniel sized it up and commented, "It's decent enough, I suppose. After all, it's our first time getting a room together; we should make some good memories."

"Country boy, quit the rubbish talk. My stomach is killing me, hurry up and give me the acupuncture!" Brittany immediately lay down on the bed.

Daniel took her right hand in his left, picked up a needle with his right, and plunged it decisively into her fingertip. Then he swiftly withdrew the needle.

The prick had been deep, yet Brittany's fingertip didn't bleed. As soon as the needle was pulled out, the excruciating pain in her belly miraculously vanished.

Daniel put away the needle, clearly done with the procedure.

"That's it?" Brittany asked incredulously.

"Yeah," he replied.

"That quickly?"

"Yep," he affirmed once more.

"Still 'yep'? You just stick a needle in my finger, trick me into renting a room, and waste 1598 yuan. You... you jerk!"

"Well, the room's already paid for, and the money's spent. Even though you're on your period, there's no reason we can't spend the night, right?" Daniel suggested with a half-grin.

"Get out!" Brittany was absolutely livid.

Suddenly, it dawned on her, and with furious eyes, she grilled Daniel, "Country boy, what are you playing at?"

"What?"

"We didn't need to get a room for this. You lured me here under false pretenses. Are you hoping this will lead to a second time? I'm telling you, don't get lost in wishful thinking while you're here!"

## **Chapter 339 Honey's Examination**

### **Chapter 339 Honey's Examination**

"I did stop your pain with that needle earlier, but it was only temporary. Your menstrual cramps haven't been completely cured. Later, I need to go to the herbal market to get some medicine; I can pick up what you need, too. If you don't believe me, so be it. But if you do, once I get the medicine, I'll continue your treatment."

"Country boy, better not be playing tricks on me! If you try anything, you'll have to answer to me."

"Do something improper? To you? Out of all the women in the world, you're the last one I'm interested in. Even if we're in the same room, or if you put on a seductive dress, it wouldn't stir a thing in me. No matter how you try to entice me, I won't spare you a glance."

"You... you're just being obstinate!"

Brittany was seething. She felt humiliated. She was popular, with countless men pursuing her, and this country boy had the audacity to say he wasn't interested?

After considering Daniel's comments, Brittany realized something.

"Country boy, don't think I can't see through your plan. You're using reverse psychology to provoke me into putting on a sexy dress, right? Dream on! I'd rather let a dog see me in a sexy dress than you!"

"A dog? Wow, didn't realize you went so wild, Brittany!"

"I... I'll throw you off a cliff!"

In a fit of rage, Brittany grabbed a pillow from the bed and hurled it at Daniel. He punched the flying pillow, which ricocheted back onto Brittany's face and knocked her onto the bed.

"Country boy, I'll kill you!"

Although a pillow didn't hurt, Brittany was more than a little angry. She pounced, pinned Daniel down on the bed, and started punching him. Daniel wriggled about, inadvertently getting more than his share of contact, although Brittany was too busy doling out punishment to notice.

After ten minutes of tussle, Brittany lay exhausted on the bed, while Daniel was still full of energy.

"Brittany, you were so feisty a moment ago. Come on, keep hitting me! Are you too tired to stand now? How amusing!"

"I... I'll kick you to death!"

As Brittany tried to kick him again, Daniel caught her leg in his grasp. Right then, his phone rang with a call from Jessica.

Oh no! Why is she calling during the daytime? For some reason, Daniel felt unexplainably nervous.

"Don't make a sound!" he whispered to Brittany before answering.

"Boss... uh, anything you need me for?" Daniel stumbled over his words.

Sensing something odd from the way he switched from "honey" to "boss," Jessica became suspicious. "What are you doing? Whom are you with?"

"Who else but your Brittany? I was heading to the herbal market when she caught me on the way. She accused me of skipping work and decided to supervise me. Want me to let her speak to you?"



Switching the phone to speaker mode, Daniel handed it to Brittany.

"Brittany, talk to Jessica and confirm it, or she'll suspect it's not really you with me."

With some skepticism, Jessica asked, "Brittany, is that you?"

"Yes, it's me, Jessica! I bumped into the country boy on the street and saw he wasn't behaving, intending to skip work, so I thought to drag him back to the company!"

"Once you're done, come back early," Jessica said before hanging up.

Jessica trusted Daniel when he was with Brittany, confident that as sworn enemies, nothing could happen between them. Even after the call ended, Brittany felt a bit flustered.

"Don't you dare tell Jessica we were here in a hotel room!" she sternly warned Daniel.

"Me? Honesty's my policy! No matter what she asks, I'll tell her the truth. It's just me taking a break from work to rent a room with Brittany. No big deal, and I don't lose anything from it."

"I warn you! If you go blabbering, I'll tear your mouth apart!"

After leaving the room, they headed straight for the nearby herbal market – Herbal loon.

Of all the shops in the market, Herbal loon wasn't the biggest, but it had the most character. Daniel, merely glancing at it from afar, could tell it had some hidden gems worth exploring.

As he eagerly walked in, his eyes landed on a stunning woman in a green dress. She was Aiden Foster, the owner of Herbal loon, exuding a serene beauty that could catch any man's attention.

Daniel gazed unabashedly at the captivating sight before him. He couldn't resist admiring beauty, and Aiden certainly had plenty to admire.

Noticing Daniel's unblinking stare at the owner, Brittany felt a sting of jealousy.

"Country boy, what are you staring at?" she demanded irritably.

"Staring at a beauty," he replied simply.

"I... You... You jerk!"

"I admit I appreciate beauty openly, and there is no shame in that. What's wrong with being a gentleman about it?"

"A gentleman? More like a pretentious one," Brittany scoffed.

Right then, Aiden elegantly approached in her high heels, her charming smile directed at Daniel.

"Handsome, are you here for some medicine?" she asked coyly.

"Beautiful! And you are? My name's Daniel," he introduced himself.

"Nice to meet you, Daniel. I'm Aiden, the owner of Herbal loon," she replied with her practiced warmth.

The shrewd Brittany could see where this was headed – Aiden could likely charm any money out of Daniel. Sensing trouble, she quickly intervened.

"Do you know her well? There's plenty of other herbal shops. Let's not buy from here, let's find a proper one."

Aiden's face darkened upon hearing Brittany's suggestion.

## **Chapter 340 Embarrassment**

### **Chapter 340 Embarrassment**

While he spoke, Daniel switched the call to speaker mode and handed the phone to Brittany.

"Brittany, prove to Jessica that it's actually you I'm with," he said.

Jessica was a bit skeptical of Daniel, so she asked, "Brittany, is that you?"

"Yes, Jessica, it's me! I ran into our country boy here on the street. He was up to no good, trying to skip work, so I thought I'd drag him back to the office!"

"Get your business done and come back soon."

With a quick command, Jessica ended the call. She trusted Daniel with Brittany because they were like oil and water; nothing unexpected would happen between them.

Despite having hung up, Brittany still seemed a bit flustered and nervous.

"You better not tell Jessica we came to a hotel room!" she warned Daniel.

"But I'm an honest guy. Whatever Jessica asks, I'll tell her the truth. It's just a hotel room visit with Brittany during work hours. No big deal; I lose nothing from it."

"I'm warning you! If you dare to blab, I'll rip your mouth off!"

The pair left the room and made their way to a nearby herbal market called Herbal Lune. Among all the shops in the market, this one wasn't the largest, but it definitely had its own charm.

With just a glance, Daniel was certain Herbal Lune had some treasures within its walls and couldn't wait to step inside. As he entered, he saw a beauty in a green dress – Aiden Foster, the owner of the shop. Her serene elegance captivated Daniel. He had an eye for beauty, and he never hesitated to appreciate a pretty sight when he saw one.

Noticing Daniel's unwavering stare at the lovely sight before him, Brittany unexpectedly felt a sting of jealousy.

"Country boy, what are you looking at?" she demanded with irritation.

"Admiring beauty, of course!" he replied offhandedly.

"I... You... Such a jerk!"

"I'm simply admiring beauty openly and admitting it like a gentleman should. What's wrong with that?"

"Gentleman? You're acting like anything but," snapped Brittany.

Just then, Aiden approached with grace in her high heels, her waist swaying as she neared. She greeted Daniel with a warm and coquettish voice, "Hey, handsome, are you here to buy some herbs?"

"What a gorgeous lady! How may I address you? My name's Daniel," he introduced himself.

"Nice to meet you, Daniel. I'm Aiden, the owner of Herbal Lune," she replied with her usual enthusiastic welcome.

To her, the man in front of her was the kind of person who would shell out cash when charmed by a pretty woman.

Brittany, ever clever, sensed something was off right away. She quickly grabbed Daniel's arm, urging, "Are you familiar with her? Every shop here has herbs, let's not buy from this one. Let's find another, a more reputable place that seriously deals in herbal remedies."

Aiden bristled at the comment.

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## Chapter 341 Shameless

### Chapter 341 Shameless

Aiden, feeling challenged by the suggestion, asked Brittany, "What exactly do you mean by that? Are you implying that Herbal Lune isn't a serious business?"

Brittany was visibly irked, especially by how Daniel couldn't take his eyes off Aiden, gawking as if he wanted to bury his head right in her midst. She wasn't having it.

"You know what kind of business you run," Brittany snapped back, thinly veiling her accusation.

Aiden could tell that she had struck a nerve with Brittany. In the silent battles between women, the first to get angry always lost. Holding the upper hand, Aiden kept her cool and responded with measured sarcasm, "Dear, if you can't keep your man in check, why lash out at me? If he wants to sneak a peek, should I stop him?"

"You... You're just shameless!" Brittany blurted out, but she didn't deny Aiden's inference that Daniel was her man.

Overhearing this massive misunderstanding, Daniel stepped forward quickly to clarify, "Aiden, I'm not her man. We're just colleagues, nothing more."

With this clarification, Aiden understood the situation better.

"Oh, Daniel! I didn't realize you were such a playboy! Are you trying to hit on me, and that's why you're denying any relationship with her? Just colleagues with nothing else going on? If that were true, would she react like this?"

With that, Aiden clearly wanted to showcase her appeal, having felt validated by Daniel's apparent interest.

Upon hearing this, Brittany flew into a rage, pointing at Daniel as she thundered, "Country boy, don't you get any ideas! What do you mean by what you just said? Do you think I'm going to chase after

you? If every other man in the world died, I still wouldn't be interested in you!"

"If you're not interested in me, I'm not interested in you either. If that's the case, why do you even care what I do?"

"You... Do you realize it's work hours?"

"So what if it's work hours? Can't I look at a pretty woman during work? I can look at you, but not Aiden? Aren't you being a little too authoritarian? Sure, you're a great beauty, but seeing the same face every day can get old. I need to spice things up now and then to keep my spirits high!"

"You... You're completely shameless!"

Brittany was so aggrieved she stamped her foot. Daniel, having no more attention to spare for her, came to Herbal Lune with a purpose: to buy herbs, not to flirt.

"Aiden, do you have any Blood Ganoderma here?"

As soon as Daniel mentioned it, Aiden was both amused and intrigued. Blood Ganoderma was an exceedingly expensive herb, even the average-quality ones could cost a fortune, and top-quality ones could reach the million-dollar mark.

## **Chapter 342 Shifting Policies**

### **Chapter 342 Shifting Policies**

Aiden had the knack for business. She wouldn't just throw out high prices; she tailored her deals to her customers. Aiden needed to gauge Daniel's wallet size before deciding how to play her hand.

"Daniel, are you sure you want the Blood Ganoderma?"

"I'm sure."

"Blood Ganoderma is expensive stuff. Even average quality goes for over a million. No offense, but looking at your outfit, you hardly seem like you're rolling in dough. Forget Blood Ganoderma, regular Ganoderma might be out of your league too! Maybe consider something more in your budget?"

"Aiden, money isn't a problem for me. But you've got to give me top-notch stuff. Even if it's a billion dollars, I can afford it."

Daniel whipped out his phone, showing off his bank balance. The money was from Jessica, his allowance of sorts. Although he played the part of an unofficial hubby, Jessica was generous when it came to cash. So, he wasn't hurting for money.

Aiden had been hoping to make a tidy sum, maybe a few thousand bucks. But once she saw the balance in Daniel's account, her excitement was hard to contain. This guy was a big fish!

Meanwhile, Brittany saw Daniel naively display his bank balance and started to panic.

"Country bumpkin, don't you dare! That money isn't yours; it's the company's. You can't touch it! If you spend it carelessly, I will report you to Jessica! No, I'll call the cops and have you locked up for misuse of company funds!"

"What makes you think it's company money? This is my allowance from Jessica!"

"Jessica gave you an allowance of a billion dollars?"

"Jealous, huh?"

"What are you even talking about! How could Jessica possibly give you a billion dollars for pocket money? Who do you think you are? Just a country bumpkin!"

"Because Jessica loves me, that's why!"

"Loves you? Cut the crap! Why on earth would Jessica love a hick like you? Do you really think you deserve her love?"

Aiden listened to their bickering and quickly hatched a plan. This was a once-in-a-lifetime customer.

Whether or not the billion in Daniel's account was company money, Aiden was determined to snag it. Once the cash was in her hands, it was hers for good. Everyone knew herbal shops like hers never did refunds.

To spur Daniel on, Aiden chimed in, "Daniel, can you actually use that billion? If you can't, I suggest you don't. If your boss blames you or if your lovely colleague here really does call the cops, wouldn't it be a loss not worth taking?"

Aiden knew men well. In the presence of an attractive woman, they all tried to show off.

Even if Daniel wasn't supposed to touch the funds, to impress Aiden, he'd have to make a move. He'd be stepping right into her trap.

After all, a woman doing good business needs to have a few tricks up her sleeve.

## Chapter 343 A Jealous Woman

### Chapter 343 A Jealous Woman

"This billion is my pocket money, not company funds. Who says I can't use it? Even if it were company money, I'd still have access to it!"

Daniel knew Aiden was laying a trap, but he didn't care. After all, this money was his spending cash. Even if he splurged ten billion in one go, the worst he'd get from Jessica was a scolding.

Once Daniel took the bait, Aiden didn't hold back.

"You mentioned wanting Blood Ganoderma, right? Lucky for you, I've just the thing here at Herbal Loon. Premium grade, too."

"Premium? Show me!"

"Just give me a sec, Daniel."

With an elegant twirl that left a tantalizing scent in the air, Aiden sashayed to the back room, her high heels clicking rhythmically. Her retreating figure was undeniably sexy, absolutely charming.

Daniel, never one to skimp on ogling beauty, greedily watched her every move.

Seeing Daniel lock eyes on Aiden's figure, he seemed utterly entranced. Brittany couldn't help but feel an unexplained jealousy coursing through her, and in a fit, she twisted his waist hard.

"Ow! What the heck!"

"What about you!"

"Why'd you twist my waist? Don't you know a man's waist is both crucial and fragile? If you were to break it, could you make up for ruining my future happiness?"

"You shameless idiot! Was that woman that captivating? You practically gluing your eyes to her behind! How disgraceful!"

"What's it to you if I watch Aiden? It's not like I'm ogling you. She doesn't mind, so why are you getting all worked up?"

"Country boy, let me warn you again! When you're out and about, you're representing TMO's image, so behave! If I catch you staring like that again, I'll record it and show Jessica your disgraceful behavior!"

Daniel wasn't intimidated by Brittany's threats, except for the bit about recording and showing Jessica. That was no joke! If Jessica, with her notorious possessiveness, saw Daniel blatantly appreciating another woman, she'd be furious enough to tear him to pieces.

But the more she cornered him, the more defiant Daniel became. If he showed weakness now, Brittany would nail him. So Daniel put on an indifferent front: "Go ahead, tell Jessica. I'm just her assistant, not her husband. She won't care about my personal life!"

His words left Brittany speechless because he was right. As just an assistant earning a modest \$1,800 a month, Jessica really wouldn't meddle in his private life; he was a nobody to her.

But Brittany wasn't the type to give up easily; she wouldn't let this country bumpkin off the hook that quick.

"This is your personal life? During work hours, you represent TMO! Your actions severely tarnish the company's image! If Jessica finds out, you'll definitely be fired!"

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## **Chapter 344 Blood Ganoderma**

### **Chapter 344 Blood Ganoderma**

Brittany knew Jessica wouldn't actually fire Daniel, but it didn't stop her from using the threat to scare the country boy.

"Jessica wouldn't fire me!"

"And why wouldn't she?"

"Because I'm both cheap and effective! Have you brought as much value to TMO during your time here as I have?"

"You..."

Right then, Aiden reappeared, her hands gracefully holding a polished mahogany box secured with a 24-karat gold lock. She approached Daniel, and a unique scent wafted to



his nose – a blend of the distinct aroma of Ganoderma and a subtle, bewitching female fragrance. The latter even overshadowed the Ganoderma's scent, drawing him in further.

Noticing Daniel's nose twitch in response, Brittany's frown deepened. Her intuition screamed that this country boy was up to no good. So, she darkened her expression and demanded, "What are you doing?"

"Nothing, why?"

"What do you mean nothing? I saw your nose twitching. What are you sniffing?"

"Obviously, it's a fragrance!"

"Which fragrance?"

"The scent of Ganoderma."

"What else?"

Daniel leaned in closer, bringing his nose near Brittany's chest and took a light whiff, then teasingly exclaimed, "The scent of a woman!"

"You lecher! You have no shame!" Brittany scolded fiercely.

Deep down, however, she felt an odd delight, as if she secretly enjoyed being sniffed by this country boy.

"Cough cough," Aiden cleared her throat and then, with a playful gaze at the two, inquired, "You two are just ordinary colleagues?"

"Plain colleagues? What else would we be? Surely not the intimate kind of colleagues?"

"You..."

Aiden blushed with embarrassment, but also feigned indignation, "You really are a rogue! Every word out of your mouth is indecent!"

She meant her words half in jest, half seriously—using this playful banter to draw closer to Daniel. That way, it would be easier for her to later weasel the billion from his account.

Brittany immediately sensed something was off. What was Aiden implying? Was she trying to flirt with Daniel right in front of her? Even though Brittany looked down upon the country boy, she couldn't let another woman flirt with him so freely. He was her

colleague after all, and it was her duty to protect him, to prevent him from being taken advantage of by others.

Despite feeling a bit jealous, Brittany didn't show it. Instead, she pointed to the mahogany box and asked, "Is Blood Ganoderma inside that box?"

Aiden produced a 24-karat gold key and delicately inserted it into the lock, giving it a gentle twist.

Click!

The gold lock sprung open, and a blinding beam of crimson light shot out, almost dazzling Brittany's eyes.

As the bright glow faded, a Ganoderma drenched in what seemed to be fresh blood was revealed, blood that appeared to be alive and flowing like a living entity.

This was the Blood Ganoderma!

For Brittany, who looked completely astonished and had clearly never seen such a thing, Aiden didn't miss the chance to boast and began to enthusiastically introduce the marvel before them.

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## **Chapter 345 Just One Billion**

### **Chapter 345 Just One Billion**

"This Blood Ganoderma is top-notch. It's not just any herb; it's a spiritual medicine of the highest quality!"

Aiden's spiel left Brittany puzzled.

"What's a spiritual medicine?"

"Spiritual medicines grow in lands rich with spiritual energy, where they're nurtured until they mature. Their medicinal value is thousands, even tens of thousands of times greater than ordinary herbs and can be used to craft elixirs. Every single spiritual medicine is exceedingly rare and worth a fortune!"

Aiden was quite the storyteller, aiming to fetch a steep price. Daniel knew her game and asked with a grin, "So Aiden, how much for this Blood Ganoderma?"

"This Blood Ganoderma is priceless. A big-time boss offered ten billion for it, and I turned him down. However, I feel a special connection with you, Daniel. From the first glance, I liked you—you're like a brother to me. So, I'll give you a sibling discount, just one billion."

"Aiden, you really know how to do business! Seeing that my balance is one billion, you charge me one billion! If it were ten billion, would you ask for that?"

"Daniel, you're accusing me unfairly. This is really the family price; it's the lowest I can go. Wherever you take this Blood Ganoderma, you could sell it for at least ten billion. I'm only asking you for one billion. That's a steal."

"Just one billion?" Daniel scratched his head, "One billion is a bit steep for the daytime. At night, when it's quiet... well, that's another story. Don't talk about one billion; even ten billion could be on the table."

Aiden was puzzled by Daniel's cryptic words, but Brittany, a clever woman with loads of theoretical knowledge, immediately got his drift. That darn country boy was up to his cheeky antics again!

"What are you saying, country boy?"

"I'm not saying anything! I'm just discussing the price with Aiden."

"Discussing price? Don't think I can't tell what those words you just said really mean, you rascal."

"What do they mean? Heh heh!" Daniel smirked slyly. "Those words? They mean exactly what they say."

Aiden, who had plenty of movie knowledge even without practical experience, realized the implication behind Daniel's words. Instead of being offended, she responded in a flirty tone, "Daniel, you're being naughty, aren't you?"

Her reaction shocked Brittany.

"Dear, how can you smile after he made that kind of joke with you? Don't you realize he's sexually harassing you? That's against the law! You should call the police right now and have him arrested!"

"Yes! He should be arrested!" agreed Aiden. She turned to Daniel with a playful smile. "Daniel, your beautiful colleague has spoken. If you don't buy this Blood Ganoderma, I might just have to call the cops, you know?"

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## Chapter 346 Pure Nonsense

### Chapter 346 Pure Nonsense

"Aiden, don't you think you're being a bit unfair to me here? I haven't even gotten any deals yet, and you want a billion dollars out of me?"

Daniel pointed at the Blood Ganoderma and said, "This thing is indeed Ganoderma, but it's just a regular Ganoderma, not a Blood Ganoderma. It's worth at most ten thousand dollars. Asking me for a billion? That's inflating the price by a hundred thousand times. Are you serious?"

"Nonsense! How could this be just ordinary Ganoderma? This is Blood Ganoderma!"

Of course, Aiden wasn't about to admit she had crafted a fake! The red color on the Ganoderma was achieved using some technical tricks, but the Ganoderma itself was definitely high-quality. Just the cost of the Ganoderma had set her back half a million. As for the fake touches, those were her own handiwork. The blood-red hues were made using ground rose petals, mixed with some peony and other flowers.

Daniel leaned in and sniffed the Blood Ganoderma. After a moment, he nodded as if understanding something.

"I know what fragrance I smelled earlier! It wasn't from your perfume Aiden, but from this so-called Blood Ganoderma. If I'm not mistaken, you've used rose petals and peony petals, ground them into powder, and placed them on the Ganoderma to create this Blood Ganoderma, right?"

"Ridiculous! I did no such thing!"

Even though Daniel had figured it out, Aiden absolutely refused to confess. If she admitted that the Blood Ganoderma had only cost her half a million to make, then at most, she could sell it for a million. But if she didn't admit it, even if she couldn't sell it for a billion, even twenty or thirty million would be pretty good. Ordinary herbs could only earn ordinary profits, but dressing them up as spiritual medicine could increase the margin by a hundredfold!

"No?" Daniel looked straight at the fibbing young woman and with a chuckle said, "Oh, but you did!"

"You're slandering me. Do you have proof?!"

"Slander? But I really do have proof! How about this; if I can prove this isn't Blood Ganoderma, you sell it to me for ten thousand dollars. If I fail to prove it, I'll buy it from you for one billion."

Daniel set the terms.

Aiden didn't rush to agree but asked with interest, "How do you intend to prove it?"

"The blood-red color of Blood Ganoderma is inherent, permeating its entirety. So, proving whether it's true Blood Ganoderma is simple. Just cut it in half and see if the inside is blood-red or not."

With Daniel's proposition, Aiden instantly panicked. While faking it to avoid affecting the quality, she hadn't used any chemicals. The rose petal powder was all on the surface. If the Ganoderma were cut open, the inside would definitely not be red!

"My Herbal Loon is a medicine store, not a casino; I'm not betting with you. However, if you're up for a gamble, I could indulge you."

Aiden gestured towards a pile of discarded herbs in the corner and said leisurely, "All these herbs here are top-grade, each worth ten thousand."

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## **Chapter 347 Shameless**

### **Chapter 347 Shameless**

Daniel glanced over the pile of herbs and immediately saw them for what they were.

Shaking his head with a chuckle, he responded, "These herbs are all inferior or spoiled. If I'm not wrong, Aiden, you were planning to toss them out as waste, weren't you? You'd be lucky to get a hundred bucks for the whole pile as scrap. Charging me ten thousand dollars each is just too greedy."

"What do you mean they wouldn't sell for a hundred dollars together? Tell you what, I'll make you a deal today. A hundred bucks each, pick any you want."

Those scrapped herbs were something Aiden had intended to throw away. If she could sell each for a hundred dollars, the pile could fetch several thousands, maybe even more. For something worthless, the price was more than fair—she wasn't losing out.

"A hundred dollars each?" Daniel scratched his head, grinned, and finally agreed, "Deal!"

There were treasures hidden among that pile of discarded herbs that Aiden was clueless about.

"Daniel, remember to pay first before picking the herbs," Aiden reminded him. If she couldn't get a billion, a hundred dollars was still acceptable.

"No problem," answered Daniel readily, then turned to Brittany and asked, "Brittany, got any change? Lend me some!"

"No way!" Brittany refused flat out.

"If you don't lend me, I won't help with your menstrual cramps!"

"You..."

Fuming with rage, Brittany wished she could chop the country boy into mincemeat! He had no filter, spouting anything and everything and just about driving her crazy.

Aiden couldn't help but chuckle upon hearing their exchange. She curiously looked at Daniel and inquired, "You can cure menstrual cramps?"

"Yep!" Daniel nodded, then sized Aiden up seriously from head to toe, and finally confirmed, "Aiden, do you also suffer from menstrual pain? Maybe we can find time for me to treat it? I have needles, and just a couple of pricks would ensure you're free from menstrual woes forever."

Daniel was dead serious about his services. Administering acupuncture to a beautiful woman sounded delightful. It would be joyous for him, joyous for the beauty, and the act of relieving her menstrual pain would be virtuous.

Brittany was incensed to hear this.

"Country boy, you shameless thing! Do you go around sticking needles in every woman? Wanting to 'cure' her menstrual cramps?"

"Well, it can't just be any woman, she has to be pretty. And as for menstrual cramps, nine out of ten women have them. So whenever I meet a beauty, I'm ready to help."

"You... Shameless!"

Brittany was so angry she didn't know what to say.

Seeing the pair bicker, Aiden spotted an opportunity and quickly devised a plan. She had no interest in letting Daniel anywhere near her for a treatment. After all, menstrual cramps were a natural occurrence and couldn't be cured that easily. However, she could leverage this situation and let a jealous Brittany pick up the tab for Daniel.

"Daniel, it's okay if you don't have any money. How about this: you treat my menstrual pain, and I'll charge you a hundred dollars per treatment. You can pay for the herbs with the money from the treatment."

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## Chapter 348 You Dare Object?

### Chapter 348 You Dare Object?

Upon hearing Aiden's proposal, Brittany's anger flared up instantly. How dare this woman openly try to steal her man?

"A hundred bucks for a treatment? Country boy might be a jerk, but he's not that cheap!"

Brittany pulled out a wad of hundred-dollar bills from her wallet—totaling up to a thousand dollars.

"Is it just the money you want? I'll lend it to you! A thousand now, but you'll pay me back ten thousand later!"

Brittany wasn't about to let Aiden get the better of Daniel, but she wasn't one to take a loss, either. The money she lent Daniel had to earn interest—tenfold, to be precise.

"Holy cow! Are you running a loan shark operation?" Daniel exclaimed.

"Country boy, what did you say? You got a problem?"

"Heh heh..."

Daniel answered with a mischievous grin, locking eyes with Brittany.

"You know, Brittany, you're actually quite beautiful. It's just that temper of yours—it's a tad too fiery. If you could just tone it down, you'd be quite the delicate beauty."

"Shut your trap! You think some country yokel like you can change me? In your dreams!"

Brittany hurled abuses at Daniel. No way would she ever be tender to him. Never in a million years!

Wait, why did she think 'never in a lifetime'? As if she'd spend a lifetime with this country bumpkin!

She shook her head, dispelling the thought, but the more she looked at Daniel, the more her anger bubbled. Why on earth was she obsessing over him? She should be shoving him aside, not dwelling on him!

The more she pondered, the angrier Brittany got; in a fit of irritation, she gave Daniel a light kick with her high heel—to quell her inner tumult.

"Why'd you kick me?" Daniel asked, baffled.

"It's because you look like you're asking for it! I want to kick you every time I see you! When I kick you, consider yourself lucky!"

With hands on her hips and a menacing glare, Brittany challenged, "What are you going to do about it, huh? You dare object?"

"Why wouldn't I object? I'm just not bothering to argue with a little girl like you!"

Daniel was finished dealing with Brittany. Instead, he pointed at the pile of discarded herbs and questioned Aiden.

"Aiden, you sure about this? A hundred bucks each for these abandoned herbs? I pick any I want? If I find something valuable and you end up losing big, don't come crying to me!"

"Rest assured, Daniel, I'm a woman who can handle her bets; I won't be crying. Besides, I've inspected all these discarded herbs myself, and none of them are worth anything. So, feel free to pick—you'll be at a loss no matter what."

Her family had been in the herb business for generations, and Aiden was intimately acquainted with all sorts of herbs—there was no way she could be wrong. She had meticulously inspected every single herb in that pile before discarding it. Aiden was ever so careful with herbs, ensuring that anything still useful was set aside and never thrown away recklessly.

With a slap, Daniel laid ten hundred-dollar bills in Aiden's hand.

"I'll start with ten herbs, then!"

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## **Chapter 349 Spectator**

### **Chapter 349 Spectator**



"Deal!" Aiden readily agreed, then watched Daniel with a smiling gaze, curious about what he would choose.

She expected Daniel to carefully select from the pile, but to her surprise, he didn't take that route. Instead, Daniel randomly picked out ten different herbs from the discarded pile and then turned to Aiden with a grin.

"Aiden, are these ten alright? Need to check them again? If these turn out to be valuable herbs, I'm sure you'll be the one crying!"

"What are you talking about! I won't be the one crying for sure!" Aiden rolled her eyes and said confidently, "These ten herbs you picked are worthless! I should be thanking you for giving me an easy thousand dollars."

After showing off, Aiden felt it wasn't enough, so she turned to Brittany. "Nice move, lending a thousand to him and asking back ten times more. You're making more than me, a clean nine thousand profit."

Brittany was livid. Indeed, she could make an easy nine-thousand-dollar profit, but that meant Aiden gained a thousand! Why should Daniel's money go to anyone but her?

Brittany, still fuming, glared at Daniel. "What's the secret with these ten herbs you picked? How much are they really worth?"

"The cheapest one here is worth a hundred thousand. The most expensive could be worth a billion! How about this, I'll sell them to you for a hundred thousand in total."

His words made Brittany feel like her chest was about to explode with fury, her heart ached from the exasperation.

Brittany, savvy as she was, quickly figured out the country boy's scheme.

"You lowlife country boy! You think you can play me like that? After casually handing over a grand to that woman, you turn around trying to scam a hundred thousand from me? You plan to take my money and give it to her?"

"I'm not giving her anything! I'm offering this opportunity to make money to you! If you don't want it, I can give it to Aiden instead," Daniel said slyly.

"Fine! Take it to your Aiden and see if she accepts it," Brittany said defiantly, arms crossed, ready to watch the scene unfold.

Daniel, with his shamelessly charming manner, turned to Aiden to pitch his herbs.

"Aiden, the value of these ten herbs is at least 1.5 billion. But since you're pretty and we're so fated, I'll give you a discount—just one million for the lot!"

Brittany couldn't help but burst into laughter. The same pile of herbs he offered to her for a hundred thousand, he was now pitching to Aiden for a million—a tenfold increase in price.

Apparently, the country boy wasn't completely heartless. At least, in this round, Brittany felt victorious.

Upon hearing his offer, Aiden was infuriated, her chest tightening with anger.

"Scoundrel! You're telling Brittany a hundred thousand, and you're charging me a million? What's the meaning of this?" Aiden demanded angrily.

"Because Aiden, you're richer than Brittany! Brittany is just a secretary; her annual salary and bonus barely reach a hundred thousand dollars. But you're different, Aiden; you're in big business. You have money!"

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## **Chapter 350 Payback**

### **Chapter 350 Payback**

"You... I... Pfft..." Aiden was so exasperated that she burst into laughter. "Just because I have money, you hike up the price?"

"Exactly! I'm just following your business model! Charge more to those who have more and less to those who have less."

"You... you scoundrel! How could you do this to me?"

"But Aiden, it was you who did it to me first! At most, I'm just paying you back in your own coin!"

"Payback? I don't want it!"

"You sure you don't want it?"

"Yes! I'm certain! A chance to turn one million into 1.5 billion is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, a guaranteed 150-fold profit. You sure you want to let that slip by?"

"Yes! I don't want it—ha!" Aiden finished with a scornful chuckle, folding her arms and putting on an air of having seen through Daniel's scheme. "You're still green, kid. I might be young, but I've been running Herbal Loon for over a decade, and I've seen all sorts of scams. You think you can trick me? Don't waste your breath!"

"I'm not trying to deceive you. These ten herbs really are all top-grade, and a few are even treasures. Even with a conservative estimate, they're worth at least 1.5 billion."

"These ten herbs are junk that belongs in the trash! You telling me they're worth 1.5 billion? Who are you trying to fool?"

"Aiden, I'm not lying to you; I'm speaking the truth. All it takes is a million from you, and you might just land a 1.5-billion-dollar windfall. If you miss this once-in-a-lifetime chance, I guarantee you'll be

biting your nails in regret, maybe even crying about it!"

Daniel knew Aiden would never bite, which is precisely why he was baiting her so brazenly—to get a rise out of her. Maybe, just maybe, making a beautiful woman cry a few times would make her fall for him.

"If I fall for your trick and spend a million, that's when I'll really be crying!" Aiden, sharp as she was, would never fall for such an obvious ruse.

"Well, I gave you a chance. Since you don't want it, fine. I'll take these ten herbs and go, farewell!" Daniel gathered the herbs into a plastic bag and made as if to leave.

Aiden immediately sensed something was up—leaving with those ten herbs? That couldn't happen.

"Hold it right there! You can't leave!"

Aiden called out to stop Daniel.

"Having second thoughts, Aiden? Want to spend a million on these ten herbs? Well, too bad, they've gone up in price—it's two million now."

"Who would want to buy your worthless junk herbs?"

Aiden glared at Daniel and then switched tack: "Since you're claiming these ten herbs are worth 1.5 billion, shouldn't you prove it?"

"Prove it? That's easy! But why should I?"

"If you can't prove it, then you're lying! That would make you a little scamming bastard! And from then on, don't ever set foot in Herbal Loon again, because I won't acknowledge you."

"What if I can prove these ten herbs are worth 1.5 billion? What will you say then?" Daniel queried.

