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“I want it cold,” Celine said somewhat tiredly.

Yvonne soon brought in a glass of cold milk and placed it on the bedside table.

“Miss Maynard, did you have dinner with Jasper tonight? How could you have drunk so much?” Yvonne asked.

Celine massaged her temples and said, “We had to talk about some stuff, that’s it. You don’t need to pry into my personal life.”

Not daring to retaliate, Yvonne hummed in response. However, her eyes glinted with hatred as she lowered her gaze.

“You can leave now. I’m turning in for the night,” Celine said as she lay in bed. Then, she abruptly added, “When you have time, pull up the quotation saved on my laptop and lower the commission by 20%. Add in a reasonable explanation that will be accepted by the company too. I want it by tomorrow.”

Startled, Yvonne said instinctively, “20%? The company will never agree to that. They might even suspect that you and Jasper have some unspoken deal. Miss Maynard, this is not...”

“This is my decision. As general manager of Terra’s regional branch, I have the power to adjust the commission within a 25% frame. Don’t you know that?” Celine’s eyes were cold as she asked the question.

“Yvonne Stone, I know you don’t like Jasper, but that’s your personal feelings which I have no control over. I won’t order you to be overly nice to Jasper but you must never let your personal feelings get in the way of your work, nor will I allow you to constantly question my decisions. Is that clear?”

As she gazed at Celine, who had a stern expression on her face, Yvonne bit down on her lip and said, "Understood, Miss Maynard. I'll carry out your orders right away."

"Go." Celine closed her eyes somewhat tiredly. She was feeling the effects of the alcohol now, and she did not have the energy to continue talking to Yvonne. "Turn off the lights when you leave."

Yvonne left the room silently.

When Yvonne left the room, she had a murderous expression on her face.

She immediately returned to her room and called William.

"Do you know how long it's been? Why haven't you taken any action yet?"

William, who was on the other end of the line, said in a disdainful voice, "Miss Maynard, please remember that you are merely the secretary to a general manager. What gave you the guts to question a president?"

Yvonne gritted her teeth as she said, "But we're equal partners in this case. You need me to provide you with information, don't you?"

William scoffed but still explained, "It takes time to persuade the board of directors back at the headquarters, but some progress has already started. Haven't you seen how the board of directors hasn't made any demands although Celine still hasn't handed in the quotation?"

Yvonne said vehemently, "Now that you've mentioned it, Celine just asked me to change the quotation. She wants to use her power to lower Colossal's commission by 20%."

William was first stunned for a while before he laughed and said, "Did Celine sleep with Jasper? Why would an otherwise smart woman do something that

would only bring benefits to the other party? Has she come up with an explanation to give to the headquarters?"

"She said any logical explanation would do because she has the power to do so. Headquarters wouldn't mind," Yvonne said coldly.

"Either way, she's fully invested in this matter now. We must hurry and mess up Sena's plan to be publicly listed. I'll send you a copy of the quotation later tonight and leave several loopholes in the explanation that will be made to the headquarters. It's up to you how we'll proceed."

William laughed as he said, "Women like you who will do anything and everything to gain what they want are truly evil."

"Mind your own business!" Yvonne said before hanging up.

The next morning, Jasper was not surprised to see Celine waiting to have breakfast with him when he woke up.

Julian left after he served the two breakfast. He had to go clean up the mess Jasper made last night.

Jasper purposely glanced at Celine's feet and saw that the woman was wearing the red heels from last night. He smiled and said, "Not bad. They're gorgeous and suit you very well. Seems like my impulsiveness from last night was not for naught."

"Of course, it wasn't. I've already shaved 20% off from our commission and submitted the final report to the headquarters. We can sign the contract once they're done verifying it," Celine said in a relaxed tone.

"The total commission is 380 million dollars and I've helped you save 76 million dollars. What shoes could be that expensive?"

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Celine's statements caused Jasper to sink into deep thought.

At the same time, Jasper made a decision.

When his companies expanded and recruited more employees, he had to make sure he had control over the amount of power his subordinates held.

Else, would he not suffer major losses if he ended up recruiting a woman like Celine Maynard who readily gave away 70 million dollars at every turn?

They enjoyed breakfast together until Celine received an encrypted call.

"It's from the headquarters. It must be them informing us that we can sign the contract now," Celine said confidently to Jasper before she returned to her room to answer the call.

Celine returned moments later with an ugly expression on her face.

When Jasper saw the expression on Celine's face, he realized that the matter he had previously been so confident about must have gone wrong.

"Sorry," Celine said as she sat down in front of Jasper. She sighed before continuing, "Sena's listing has run into some problems."

"Tell me. I'm listening," Jasper said calmly.

Celine gazed at Jasper. Without taking anything else into regard, his calmness at such a time was already something that not most people would have.

“Headquarters just informed me that members of the board have raised their suspicions regarding this deal. They’re requesting a complete redo of the assessment to determine the possibility of Sena going public,” Celine said.

Jasper chuckled as he sat on the couch and said, “Which means that everything we did before this was for nothing?”

Celine had an apologetic expression on her face as she said, “No, there must have been something we missed. I’ll get to the bottom of this and solve this matter as soon as possible.”

“I don’t know how internal affairs at your investment company are, but it seems odd that an amazing business deal would go down the drain just because several members of the board came forth to stir things up,” Jasper said as he shook his head.

Celine hurriedly said, “Please don’t misunderstand. We just have somewhat of a unique structure at the investment company. Most matters are handled by the president, but the board of directors has the right to voice their doubts for large deals. It’s a form of insurance for the company in ensuring no problems are encountered.

“So, your insurance is to have me, your client, waste my time with you?” Jasper asked.

Celine went silent.

Realizing his attitude might have been a bit aggressive, Jasper softened his tone and said, “Miss Maynard, this has nothing to do with you. Don’t worry, we’ll remain friends no matter what. But in the spirit of maintaining business formality, I hope you’ll pass on a message to the headquarters for me.”

“Please continue,” Celine said solemnly.

“Colossal Investments is not the only company that can be Sena’s underwriter in the stock market. I believe that so long Sena is willing to do so, a simple announcement would be enough to attract major investment companies from States such as Layman Investments, Merlene Investments, Morgan Stanley Investments, and Citigroup Inc. to fly over and fight for the chance to work with me.

“It would do good for Colossal Investments to not think of themselves as such a big deal.”

Jasper did not bother trying to be nice. All this while, he had been involved in many fights. Thus, even his toes could conclude that someone was trying to sabotage him this time.

However, did Jasper care?

He did not.

It was because Jasper was not trying to leech benefits away from Colossal Investments. Both parties would benefit from this deal.

However, what was different was that Jasper could just switch investment companies and continue working happily with whoever it was. However, if Colossal Investments lost him as a client, they would lose out on profits of more than 300 million dollars and also the fame they would gain by helping Sena get listed on the Nasdaq Composite.

Ordinary profits were worth nothing to investment companies like Colossal Investments. However, they had to take on the position of being underwriter for stocks like Sena.

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It was because a company like Sena was bound to cause a huge surge of interest in investments the minute they were listed publicly. No one dared predict how much their shares would rise, but it was without a doubt that they would be priced sky-high on the very first day.

Colossal Investments was drooling over a business deal that would bring them such fame.

After all, the competition in the investment industry was brutal and competitive. No one knew which was the second biggest investment company, but everyone knew Colossal Investments was the biggest investment company.

If Colossal Investments ever fell from grace, they would be forgotten by the public in a matter of days.

That was why Jasper dared to ignore their shady tricks.

All he needed to do was switch companies. What was there for Jasper to worry about?

On the contrary, it was something that the internal affairs at Colossal Investments needed to worry over.

As expected, Celine's eyebrows were knitted together when she heard what Jasper had said.

"Don't panic yet. I'll take care of this as soon as possible," Celine said to Jasper.

"Three days. Give me three days."

Jasper gazed at the serious expression on Celine's face and thought about it for a moment before he nodded and said, "Alright, let me know if you need my cooperation in anything."

"But keep in mind that I don't have much time."

When she heard Jasper agree, Celine hurriedly nodded and said, "Alright, don't worry. I'll make sure to give you a proper explanation."

When she finished, Celine bade goodbye to Jasper and hurried back to her room.

"Yvonne, come here." Celine returned to her room and sat silently in the study for half an hour before calling out to Yvonne.

Yvonne had already received news that the board was stopping Sena from being listed publicly and was still celebrating inwardly. When she heard Celine, she did not think much about it and immediately entered the study.

Slap!

A loud slap rang out as a hand landed heavily on Yvonne's cheek.

Yvonne cradled her cheek as she stared at Celine in disbelief, yelling, "Miss Maynard, why did you hit me?!"

"Why?" Celine laughed coldly as she said, "You dared to turn on me but you never thought there would be a day when I found out about it?"

"Tell me! What sort of benefits did William give you to leak information to him?!"

Yvonne panicked when she heard Celine's questions and instinctively shook her head as she denied it. "Miss Maynard, you've misunderstood me. I have no idea what you're talking about."

“Yvonne, you’ve been with me for so many years. How do you still not know me well?” Celine gazed disappointedly at Yvonne. “Conversely, I know you very well.

“The members of the board who voiced their objections were all William’s superiors. He’s definitely involved in this. Besides, William’s been making frequent calls to the headquarters recently. Did you really think I wouldn’t have noticed that?”

Celine’s cold words caused Yvonne’s heart to sink to the pit of her stomach.

“I knew you hated Jasper, but I never thought you would be so ballsy to even work with my enemy to cause trouble for Jasper. Do you know this will cause me to lose any reputation I have?” Celine said through gritted teeth.

Flustered, Yvonne said stubbornly, “Even if William was the one making a mess of things, it still has nothing to do with me.”

“Nothing to do with you? Right now, only me, you, and President Paulson know of my collaboration with Jasper. Are you suggesting the president was the one who sold me out?”

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A flustered expression appeared on Yvonne’s face. She had not expected her plan to be exposed so soon.

Right now, she was so flustered the only thing she could do was grit her teeth and deny everything, insisting she had nothing to do with it.

She knew Celine had no evidence against her if she denied everything. However, she would be done for if she admitted to anything herself.

When she saw that Yvonne was still not going to admit to anything, Celine shook her head in disappointment. “I always knew he had sent you over to spy on me, but I never minded.

“After all, there would be others even if I sent you away. I can’t stop that.

“But you managed to fit my requirements, and you’re good at what you do. That’s why I’ve always trusted you.

“I was initially willing to give you another chance on the basis of the trust we shared. As long as you admitted to everything...”

Then, Celine gazed at Yvonne’s face which was progressively becoming more flustered and pale. She said calmly, “Yvonne Stone, from this moment onward, you are no longer my secretary. I’ll have HR inform you of any procedures you’ll have to go through.”

Yvonne’s face turned deathly pale as she screeched, “Miss Maynard, are you firing me?!”

“You abandoned me first.” Celine’s voice turned calm as she said coldly, “You rejected the last chance I gave you. Perhaps my tolerance has caused you to become more and more reckless.

“Were you thinking that because I had no proof against you and that William would never identify you publicly, I wouldn’t stand a chance against you so long as you denied everything?

“What you didn’t know is that I’m not a judge, and the investment company is not a courtroom either. I don’t need any proof before I can pass my judgment. All it takes for your resignation is a statement from me.”

Then, Celine said coldly, “Please leave right now. We no longer have any sort of relationship between us.”

When confronted with that severe blow, Yvonne hurriedly tugged on Celine's shirt as she sobbed. "Miss Maynard, please forgive me. I didn't mean anything by it. I didn't know you would be this angry. Can you just take it as a mistake I made and forgive me, please?"

"I did leak information to William on my own accord, but the only reason I did that was to cause trouble for Jasper. I couldn't just stand by and watch as Sena gets successfully listed. Who does he think he is? What gives him the right to reap all the benefits and have everything good in life?"

"Miss Maynard, I never wanted to harm you!"

The disappointment on Celine's already stern face only grew as she listened to Yvonne's sobbing complaints.

"It's alright if you make mistakes, and I'm always ready to give you a chance to correct them. But it's your parents' responsibility if your morals are corrupted. I have no responsibility in helping or tolerating you."

"Your mind is truly simple. Did you really think William would only target Jasper alone? Besides, what kind of loss would this cause for Jasper? All he needs to do is delay the listing by a couple of days. Even without Colossal Investments, there are still numerous investment companies lining up to hand him a contract."

"Everyone knows how powerful Sena is. It's a business deal that would rake in huge profits. Would there be any investment company that'll reject it?"

"Thus, William has made me his target from the very start. Jasper just happened to be thrown into the mix. William is smarter than you are and has known since the start that this would never be a problem for Jasper."

Celine shook her head in disappointment as she said, "Did you know what the headquarters told me over the phone? They suspect that I've made a private agreement with Jasper, especially regarding the 20% discount in commission."

They're suspecting I'm using my authority to work with Jasper to harm the company. The investigative team is already on their way.

"It doesn't matter if they find anything or not. It'll still be a huge hurdle for me to remain at the Terra regional branch. And who would be the happiest if I left? That person would be William.

"And what about you? What would you get from this?"

Celine gazed at Yvonne with pity. The woman's face had turned ashen, and Celine said coldly, "You gained no benefits at all. Conversely, you lost everything. Your job at the investment company, my trust, and your future."

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"In fact, people like you are the ones who should be hated and pitied the most. You brought trouble to both yourself and others, thinking you were smart. However, you ended up being the fool."

Everything she said caused Yvonne to stand rooted to the spot in shock.

She realized that things were exactly how Celine made them out to be. She was the fool here.

Not only had she not gained any benefits, but Jasper, the one she wanted to seek revenge on, had lost nothing. On the other hand, she had lost everything.

She also dragged Celine down with her in the process.

"Miss Maynard, I..."

Tears filled Yvonne's eyes as she tried to plead for mercy. However, she was too ashamed to actually say anything when she opened her mouth.

"Seeing how you still have some shame, I'll give you some leeway."

Celine's words caused hope to once again flare within Yvonne. She gazed hopefully at Celine.

However, what Celine said after that pushed her right back into an abyss of despair.

"You can hand in your resignation. This way, you'll still be able to find employment in other investment companies. If Colossal Investments were to fire you, it'll leave a permanent stain on your record and no other investment companies will think of hiring you."

Celine turned and walked off after saying that, leaving Yvonne to stand rooted to the spot in shock before she finally burst into tears.

Once she was done dealing with Yvonne, Celine gave William a call.

William did not seem surprised to receive a call from her. He seemed to be in a good mood.

"Miss Maynard, you don't seem to be in a good mood," William said leisurely as he leaned against his office chair in the brightly lit office.

Celine had a stiff expression on her face as she said, "Isn't this what you wanted?"

William laughed and said, "Please don't say that. You're an amazing partner, and I hope only the very best for you. I said the same thing to the investigative team when they were in my office earlier."

“How quick,” Celine scoffed and said, “William, you must know that the investigative team will never find anything wrong with me. Do you really think such tricks will work on me?”

William shrugged and said, “I don’t know if it’ll work or not. I only know that the minute your record shows that you’ve had investigations done on you, you’ll never be able to get the chair that my butt is resting on right now.”

Sighing, Celine said, “Jasper’s case to list Sena publicly has nothing to do with our feud. I hope you’ll think about this carefully.”

William laughed and said, “Miss Maynard, how did you get to where you are now if you’re this naive? Just like how you screwed up my case, I’ll ensure you never get to complete any business deals without causing a whole lot of trouble. Got it?”

“Your suffering is my source of happiness,” William said before he hung up.

Celine had a stiff expression on her face as she listened to the dial tone. Honestly, she was not surprised at the outcome.

Sighing, Celine muttered to herself, “You forced me to do this.”