

Sir, You Don't Know Your Wife Chapter 92

Brandon and Cheryl exchanged a look when they heard that—they nodded after mulling it over.

The stall owner presented a pair of jade earrings carefully as though they were his most precious belongings. Cheryl fell in love with them the moment she saw the earrings because the color was translucent, looking like ice variants.

The ice variant was considered the best quality among all jade variants. The particular variant was rare and fetched a high price. Hence, they were gems that were hard to come by.

Janet crouched down to take the jade earrings from the owner, squinting to observe it.

“Janet, why did you take those away? The boss is giving me that pair of jade earrings,” Cheryl snapped .

Janet weighed the jade earrings in her hand before looking up at the owner. Her lips curled into a ghost of a smile. “Are you saying that these quartz stones are yours?”

“Quartz stones?” Cheryl sounded confused.

She did not know how to differentiate jade stones—in fact, the only thing she knew was that jade stones were expensive.

Cheryl looked at the stall owner with a deep frown. “Are you giving me quartz stones? Do you even have a conscience?”

The stall owner was tongue-tied in frustration, glaring at Janet. “Are you saying that these are quartz stones? Have you seen quartz before?”

Janet chuckled lightly. “Not only have I seen them, but I even know how they are being manufactured to look like jades to be sold as jade stones.”

“Its exterior usually features a certain amount of translucency with a glass luster. In the past, its color has appeared too homogenous, so it's either bluish or yellowish. This means

that it doesn't seem natural enough. However, the products nowadays look more authentic because their colors have a gradient owing to their light colors. Hence, they now look more natural. These cheap raw materials are merely nice to decrease the costs of producing imitation jade."

With that, she took out a small torchlight from her bag to shine at the side of the earrings while beckoning Cheryl. "Can you see the quartz's granular-like lace structures? Do you still believe that these are jade stones?"

"Well..." Cheryl was still hesitant. Upon noticing her doubts, Janet commented calmly, "If you don't believe me, feel free to verify its authenticity. If it's proven that these jade earrings are indeed made of jade stones, I'll buy them and give them to you as presents, no matter how pricey they are."

The stall owner's expression drastically changed when he heard Janet's suggestion and did not want her to say another word. In fact, the only thing he wanted was for her to leave as soon as possible. It's almost impossible to fool this little girl. Could she be a professional within the industry? Is she here to gather information? "You must be here to cause trouble for me, am I right? Tell me, which shop has sent you over as a spy?"

Upon noticing the stall owner's attitude, Brandon immediately knew that the owner was indirectly admitting the fact that the jade was fake. Damn it, I've wasted a few hours on this fruitless discussion.

Having nowhere to vent his frustration, he picked up his mobile phone to report the stall owner.

After half an hour, the Urban Management Bureau and Trade and Industry Bureau arrived simultaneously as they wanted to take the stall owner back to assist in their investigations. Amidst the chaos, the middle-aged woman, who was lurking in a corner, ran away in silence.

Janet indifferently made her way to block the middle-aged woman. "Why are you in such a rush? It's important for both husband and wife to share the burden. How could you abandon him when he's in trouble?"

The middle-aged woman looked up at Janet and answered in a panic, "What nonsense are you spouting? How could we possibly be husband and wife? You must be insane! Why would I buy Master Nato's painting if I'm his wife?"

Janet burst out in laughter as she casually tossed her hair. "Isn't the reason obvious? You are his accomplice!"

The only unbreakable rule in the antique market was to ask an accomplice to sell something off by encouraging a higher price with an external bidder. That method was a taboo in international antique markets.

Upon hearing her remark, the surrounding stall owners started a heated discussion.

"Damn it, Mr. Schneider! No wonder your business is booming! I suppose you've hired countless accomplices in the past?"

"Not only do you sell imitation goods, but you even went so far as to hire accomplices! Stop tainting the antique industry!"

"Get lost!" The other stall owners were clearly infuriated by his actions.

When the Trade and Industry Bureau heard the sudden uproar, they brought Mr. Schneider and the middle-aged woman back for further investigation.

Janet knew that she had accomplished her mission after witnessing that. At least the person, who sells imitation paintings of mine in the market, has received what he deserves. However, why are Uncle Brandon and Aunt Cheryl so foolish to have been easily deceived...

"Stand right there!"

Janet turned and heard Cheryl's immediate comment. "You are so young, but it seems like you know a lot!"

Janet giggled quietly. "I think anyone with a brain would have read through his tricks. If you have the time, it's best that you read more books on antiques. I'm sure you don't want to be cheated the third time."

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“Um...” Cheryl wanted to refute her statement, but she felt helpless because it was indeed the truth.

Janet’s lips curled into a faint smile as she made her way into a narrow passage. Thanks to helping the foolish Uncle Brandon, I almost forgot to send the crystal jade to Old Madam Lowry...

Brandon continued to stare at her. Megan’s information is highly unreliable. If it’s true that Janet has been raised in a village, how could she possibly be well-versed in all these matters?

Driven by his curiosity, he phoned Megan.

The phone call was connected soon enough and she politely greeted him. “Uncle Brandon, how can I help you?”

“Are you sure that Janet grew up in a village?”

“Huh?” She did not understand what he implied, so she asked. “What happened?”

He reiterated what had happened earlier to her.

“What?” Megan appeared in shock on the other end of the line. “Janet knows how to identify jades?”

Brandon acknowledged heavily. “Yeah. Do you think that she might have met someone who taught her these simple skills when she was in the village?” He made a guess.

After pausing for a few seconds, she broke the silence. “That’s possible, but it doesn’t seem impossible.”

He asked, “Why is it not quite possible?”

She answered in a hushed tone, “If she was truly so capable, she wouldn’t have worked the fields in such a small village.”

“Are you saying that Janet was just lucky this time?” That was his last guess to conclude the matter.

Megan tried to carefully recollect about what happened in the past. It is possible; otherwise, how would one be able to explain what has happened thus far?!

That day, news of Janet exposing the imitations in the antique market spread like wildfire. Even The Majestic Jeweller had heard about her.

He was extremely frustrated because he learned that his shop assistant had treated her with extremely poor service when she visited to purchase the Crystal Jade. In fact, he learned that they almost lost a rich client, so he glared at Miss Nolan. “Tell me—if it weren’t for the intern, Stella, we would have lost a huge business deal, don’t you know that?”

Miss Nolan’s shoulders trembled in fear. “Boss, I didn’t know that she was wealthy. She looked like a student from senior high, so I didn’t expect her to afford 15 million!”

The shop owner angrily glared at her. She is an experienced employee in this shop for many years; how can she make such a basic mistake? Maybe... Miss Nolan has lost several large business deals, thanks to her attitude.

The more he thought about it, the more agonized he felt.

“Are you allowed not to serve her just because she looks like a student from senior high? Some billionaires even walk around in flip-flops! Have you forgotten all the common courtesy that I trained you in serving our customers?”

“Boss, I will never make the same mistake again. I promise I will work harder!”

The boss was burning with anger. “Get lost! I don’t need you to work for me anymore! You don’t need to show up for work from tomorrow onward. I’ll transfer your salary into your account! Besides, I’ll shorten our intern, Stella’s probation period. She’ll be promoted to a manager once she works for half a year.”

“What?” Stella and Miss Nolan simultaneously exclaimed.

One sounded delighted whereas the other sounded shocked and furious!

Miss Nolan asked in dissatisfaction, “Boss, I’ve been working for many years now. You have never promoted me. What gives her the right to be promoted as a manager after merely working for six months?”

“You are shameless enough to ask such a question, I see. Have you ever sealed a 1 million deal? Get lost if you haven’t!”

His comment clearly touched Miss Nolan’s raw nerve. Seeing as the boss was determined, she couldn’t bring herself to explain further. Therefore, she left in silence! I truly shouldn’t have judged a book by its cover. That young girl has gotten me in deep trouble. If it weren’t for her, I wouldn’t have lost my job...

It was almost evening by the time Janet arrived at the Lowry Residence. I’ve not returned to the Jackson residence since yesterday evening and I didn’t phone them to inform them of my whereabouts. I see that the Jacksons aren’t bothered about my well-being at all!

Old Madam Lowry held a farewell meal at Leaping Dragon Hotel for dinner.

In the first-class private room, Old Madam Lowry grinned from ear-to-ear because the young girl, Janet, had attended the dinner as well. “Miss Janet, you should eat more! You should gain weight, so that you’ll be ready next year..” She omitted the words ‘to plan for a pregnancy’ because she was concerned that the young lady would be displeased by such remarks.

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“I prepared this gift for you.” Mason unrolled the painting in his hands carefully.

“Huh? This painting looks familiar... Is it an authentic piece from Master Nato?” Old Madam Lowry’s eyes were glued on the landscape painting in front of her.

The whole painting had an almost ethereal beauty to it—and the old lady was clearly lost in the painting. “It must have been difficult to request Master Nato to draw again!” she commented happily.

She loved calligraphy painting, so she knew that many people within the industry had heard a lot about Master Nato. As a result, she knew that Master Nato had stopped drawing for the longest time. Therefore, Mason must have had to exercise a lot of effort to procure the artwork.

He smiled slightly. "She merely asked for 20 million."

"20 million? Mason, how could you be so stingy?" Old Madam Lowry looked angry and indignant.

He cocked an eyebrow while appearing helpless. "She said that as long as the Lowry Family owes her one."

She nodded with a start. "Ah, I see."

Henry, who was nearby, blurted, "Old Madam Lowry, what's exceptional about Master Nato's painting? From what I've heard, Young Master Mason has claimed that Miss Janet's paintings are even better!"

Upon hearing that, Old Madam Lowry turned to Janet in excitement. "Janet, do you paint too?"

"Yes, but only with some basic methods!" Janet nodded without giving anything away.

Old Madam Lowry smiled happily while looking at Mason. "Mason, you are so lucky! Miss Janet is well-versed in everything!" she commented while chuckling happily.

Janet was just about to deny that when she heard Old Madam Lowry's comment, but she recalled that it was the old madam's farewell. Hence, she decided that the old madam's happiness was the priority that night.

When they were about to finish dinner, she took out an intricate box from her bag to hand it to Old Madam Lowry. "Old Madam Lowry, this is the Crystal Jade that I'd like to give you."

"Oh, my, Miss Janet. I'm already delighted that you're here. You didn't need to buy anything for me! You must have spent a lot!"

"This isn't expensive. Open the box and have a look."

Old Madam Lowry looked delighted and content. Miss Janet is such a wonderful girl. The Lowry Family is truly lucky!

Old Madam Lowry opened the packaging meticulously, noticing that there was an almost translucent jade piece in the box. According to Miss Janet, this should be a Crystal Jade.

She picked it up, suddenly feeling a cooling sensation spreading across her chest and visceral parts of her body. Old Madam Lowry exclaimed, "Miss Janet, why... does the jade have some sort of cooling effect? It feels almost comforting. What is happening here?"

Janet smiled lightly while explaining, "Rumors have it that Crystal Jades have healing effects and that they are able to treat illness. However, nobody could tell if it's true."

"That's wonderful." Old Madam Lowry stroked the jade piece continuously and wasn't willing to part with it as she wore it as a necklace. "I truly like it. Thank you, Miss Janet."

Mason observed as Janet and Old Madam Lowry happily chatted, making him exhilarated. It felt that three of them were a family and in between their conversation, he picked up a braised meat to place in the young lady's bowl.

Janet saw it from the corner of her eyes and frowned. "I don't like fatty meat." Upon saying that, she placed the braised meat into his bowl with her chopsticks.

He narrowed his eyes slightly when she did that, but he persisted. He placed some braised eggplant into her bowl while commenting affectionately, "Take a bit. I'd like to know if my cooking is better."

At the table, Old Madam Lowry was comforted by the scene with Mason and Janet bickering with each other. Mason must have worked hard. Did he cook braised eggplant for Miss Janet? I believe the Lowry Family's lineage will continue. For the past few years, I was worried that the Lowry Family's bloodline would end with Mason.

After sending Old Madam Lowry off yesterday, Janet felt down and lost for the first time in her life. It was most probably because the old madam was the first elderly to have treated her well.

At Star High School, it was Monday yet again.

Due to her discipleship ceremony, Emily became the laughing stock in school.

“Have you guys heard?”

“Didn’t Emily claim that she wants to learn from the famous artist, Steven Collins?”

“Hasn’t the matter involving Emily now spread all over school? She was still quite happy last week.”

“Haha, that’s because you didn’t know that the picture she handed to Mr. Steven was actually a stolen piece from Janet.”

“What? Did Emily steal Janet’s painting? In that case, does it mean that Janet can paint?”

“It’s not that she can. In fact, she’s awesome at it.”

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“Oh, my God! Isn’t Emily too vain? But how did she steal it? Did she do that in school?”

“How would I know? Anyway, Emily wouldn’t be able to show off in school today.”

“Emily seems to be embarrassing herself lately. She actually lost to Janet in the previous National Mathematics competition. Is she trying to win this round by stealing?”

Students in Class A were very snobbish, so they’d make pointed remarks whenever someone was involved in something horrible. On the other hand, they’d try to get in someone’s good books if the latter were to have accomplished something worthwhile. Throughout the past two years, they had been fawning over Emily.

Upon arriving at school, she heard the gossip and rumors about her and felt extremely sorry for herself. I wonder who that rascal is who spread this news. I’ll curse the person if I ever find out.

She sat in the classroom in anxiousness. Suddenly, Madelaine barged into the classroom and took her seat with her bag before handing her phone to Emily for her to have a look. "Emily, look, is this Janet from our class?"

The picture in the phone showed four young men supporting Janet while she walked.

The photograph wasn't too blurry and anyone who knew Janet would believe that it was her.

Emily stared at Madelaine in shock while asking in puzzlement, "How did you get this photo?"

Madelaine scowled. "On Saturday, it happened that my uncle was outside the hotel. Then, he saw four men holding onto a young girl. As he was worried about her safety, he took a picture and even sent it to our Messenger's 'Loving Family' chat group."

I see!

"Based on what I know of her, this must be Janet!" Emily decisively confirmed.

Madelaine nodded. "I think they look 90% alike."

Haha, in that case, why don't I use this chance to shift everybody's focus on Janet?

Emily thought of a great idea. This is thanks to Madelaine and fortunately, we are on the same side.

Janet arrived at school.

The moment she entered the school grounds, she noticed people stealing glances at her intermittently. When she looked up, they'd avoid her gaze.

Her instincts told her that it couldn't be any good news.

Nevertheless, Janet entered Class A while appearing unfazed. She noticed that the guys were leering at her whereas the girls seemed disgusted.

At that moment, Abby dragged her to a corner at the staircase outside hastily whereas Gordon followed them.

Abby asked in a hurry, "Janet, what happened? Everybody in school is talking about you."

He snatched Abby's phone while switching off the screen. "I trust Janet and the truth will reveal itself."

"No worries; show it to me." Janet took Abby's phone. She turned on the screen to have a look and it turned out to be Star High School's gossip thread on Reddit.

Little Mouse started the thread.

There was a picture attached where Beast was supporting her back while she entered the car after she had some alcohol. The caption was, 'News blast! Star High School's **net Jackson has fun with four burly men! She has a promiscuous lifestyle. Everybody, please keep a distance from her. I hope that the school authorities would investigate her thoroughly to avoid her causing bad influence within the school.'

The person, who started the thread, was extremely harsh with their wordings. However, there were thousands of comments beneath the post.

'**net Jackson? Isn't that Janet Jackson?'

'Oh my God! That's too disgusting. Will she get infected by HIV since she's having fun with four burly men?'

'I can't even imagine that this is our schoolmate in Star High School!'

'Everybody, keep a distance from her. You might be infected with some disease if you're not careful!'

At that point, Emily came forward with a comment, but she seemed to be advocating for Janet.

'You shouldn't hurt your schoolmate. They might be Janet's siblings. You are all cyberbullying. Do you know that this will cause a lot of hurt?'

Emily's comment had attracted lots of praises.

"Emily, you are such a kind-hearted soul!"

'Although Emily stole Janet's painting, it's wonderful that she came forward by taking Janet's side.'

'Let's focus on Janet for now.'

'We should stop commenting about Emily because she is a kind person, after all. I'm sure that she did not steal on purpose. Everybody makes mistakes after all!'

Janet burst out in laughter when she read the comments underneath the post. It is undeniable that this is a great strategy for Emily to divert everybody's attention!

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Emily Jackson = Little Mouse, how fitting!

Since Janet did not have a laptop with her, she could only phone Lara to ask her to help her identify the ID to check if it belonged to Emily.

After two minutes, Lara's reply confirmed Janet's suspicions.

Emily looked at the comments that defended her, feeling like a genius to have used that method. I'm sure Janet would never think that I'm the person who posted that threat, hahahaha!

Janet, I'd like to see how you will continue to stay in Star High School after such an embarrassing ordeal.

Emily smirked contemptuously, making her way to Janet's seat.

Everybody in the class warned Emily, "Emily, you shouldn't go near her. What will you do if you catch some disease from her?"

"Emily is such a nice person. I think she must be there to console Janet."

"Oh, my... Emily is too kind. I can't believe I even scolded her today after learning that she stole Janet's painting! It was wrong of me to blame her."

"Everybody made the same mistake!"

Gordon was extremely furious when he heard them accusing Janet and raised his fist while hissing vehemently, "Damn you all! Repeat yourselves if you have the guts to do so!"

Emily scowled unhappily while deliberately making a remark. "Gordon is right. You shouldn't gossip about our classmate. First, let me ask whether it's her."

She glanced at Janet as a trace of resentment flashed across her eyes, but it was replaced almost instantly with a concerned expression. "Janet, can I ask whether you are the person in the picture, who 'had fun with four burly men', in Star High School's Reddit thread?"

Janet casually raised her brow while maintaining a faint smile. She answered frostily, "You better watch what you say! Don't assume that I'm oblivious to the truth."

Emily scowled immediately, replacing her gentle tone with one that sounded aggrieved. "Janet, what do you mean? I even supported you on Star High School Reddit's thread. Do you think that it's appropriate for you to speak to me in such a way?"

Everybody in class felt that she did not receive the gratitude that she deserved and started to reprimand Janet. "Aren't you a shameless person? Why are you scolding her when Emily has done her best to support you?"

"Do you understand the concept of gratitude? You are such a heartless person!"

Janet thought, I can turn a blind eye in normal circumstances when Emily speaks ill of me with sarcastic remarks. However, I can no longer endure it since she's using my innocence as a topic of discussion. I'm a fool if I were to maintain my silence. Emily loves writing essays, doesn't she? In that case, I shall write one too.

Hence, Star High School's post regarding the 'fun with four burly men' vanished without any warning.

Soon, there was a post by Janet.

'Good day, everyone. I am the new transfer student in Star High School, Janet Jackson. Yesterday, someone took a photo of me together with four people. In all honesty, I come from a very small village and they are all my childhood friends. They knew that I came to the city and they missed me. Hence, they took the opportunity to visit me since they were having a break. However, I'm not sure how this ends up as gossip fodder since everyone seems to be spreading scandalous rumors about us. They are my peers and became extremely upset after learning that my schoolmates have used them as some sort of gossip content! They are now having second thoughts about staying friends with me. I never had many friends even in Star High School to begin with. Therefore, if everyone thinks that it's wrong of me to have friends, I honestly have no idea what else to do.'

Her post was forwarded and shared thousands of times within a few minutes.

Janet's method of embracing her identity as someone from a village evoked a lot of sympathy.

'Sigh, I feel so bad after reading that. You should stop spouting negative stuff about her since Janet barely has any friends.'

'Why did you people go overboard? You can't possibly accuse her of being promiscuous unless you have a picture of her in bed! You are all too much.'

'I agree with the comment above. Previously, Janet even received first place in the National Mathematics competition, bringing honor to our school.'

'She was in first place during the School Anniversary too.'

'My guess is that someone was jealous of her, which is why her photo was taken out of context to spread unfounded rumors about her.'

'I am Abby Shaw and share a table with Janet Jackson. I know Janet very well, so I would like for the person, who spread the rumours, to take the initiative and come forward to apologize.'

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'I sit behind Janet and I know her very well too. Whoever continues to spread these rumors will be making an enemy out of me, Gordon Yaleman.'

When Janet noticed that Abby and Gordon came to her defence, she felt warm in her heart.

As expected, many people switched their alliance following his comment, claiming:

'Since Gordon says that, I'm sure Janet isn't that kind of person. Meeting adjourned, everybody.'

'That's right; I trust Gordon. To the person who continues to spread these rumors, I'll disconnect your internet connection, hmph!'

Suddenly, users in the Star High School Reddit thread were divided into two sides—one was against Janet whereas the other believed her.

At Lowry Family Conglomerate.

"Are these the four people?"

That night, Mason had forgotten all about the 'b*stards' that Janet mentioned earlier since he was happy at that moment. In the morning, he recalled the incident after hearing rumors about her being involved with the same four guys in the Star High School Reddit thread.

"Yes, these are the four men who drank alcohol with Miss Jackson that night."

Mason's lips curled into a charming smile, but his tone was bone-chilling. "They look rather small. It's almost as if I'd be able to strangle them to death with one hand each."

Cold sweat beads formed across Sean's forehead as he knew that the calmer Mason appeared to be, the more furious he was in reality.

The hacker, who sat beside them, was about to hack into the thread to delete all the rumors related to Janet. However, he realized that there was now not a single topic involving her.

"Young Master Mason, all the negative posts surrounding Miss Jackson have disappeared... But it wasn't me. I haven't even had the chance to start."

Mason's long and narrow eyes widened slightly in surprise. "Who did it?"

The hacker shook his head. "I can't investigate because they didn't leave any trace behind."

"Young Master Mason, could it be Miss Jackson herself?" Sean asked in suspicion.

Henry waved his hand. "How is that possible? There are so many hackers in the world. It's impossible that Janet is well-versed in everything."

Sean chuckled awkwardly. "Well, that's true. Miss Janet is merely in Grade 12. Maybe it's her acquaintance lending a helping hand?"

Mason did not comment further, but his almond eyes narrowed in puzzlement.

Those deep and unpredictable eyes did not reflect his thoughts.

At Star High School, there was now a new post in Reddit.

'Oh my God! Am I seeing things?'

'I can't believe that Little Mouse is actually Emily Jackson!'

'Little Mouse = Emily Jackson; that's rather fitting! She won't be able to get away with her nickname as Little Mouse from now on.'

'Emily is such a hypocrite. On one hand, she's accusing Janet by starting that thread, but on the other hand, she's being a hypocrite by taking the latter's side.'

'I was blind to actually believe that Emily is a kind soul. I take my words back.'

'Pfft! She even pretended to approach Janet today to check on her well-being! No wonder Janet reprimanded her! She did the right thing!'

Suddenly, those who scolded Janet earlier on the Reddit thread apologized in their replies underneath the one that she posted.

On the other side, Emily was still oblivious to the sudden turn of events. Just a few minutes ago, she used her alternate account to make a few posts accusing Janet, so she was still feeling gleeful about it.

She kept her phone while continuing to read her book, as if she had done nothing wrong. Hmph! I allowed you to steal my thunder during the School Anniversary and even let you snatch first place during our exams. I even allowed you to win the championship during the National High School Mathematics Competition.

Madelaine's head was bowed while she scrolled through the posts. However, she suddenly realized that something was amiss because the comments beneath were all clearing Janet's reputation.

She immediately panicked, showing her phone to Emily. "Emily, look! What is happening?"

Emily glared at Madelaine. What are you freaking out about?

She took over Madelaine's cellphone and clicked into the Star High School Reddit's trending thread named 'Emily Jackson = Little Mouse; she only has the guts to accuse others behind their backs.'

"Who did this?" Emily cried aloud in anger.

She turned, noting that all her classmates were giving her looks of disgust.

She took out her cellphone to enter the Star High School Reddit thread, noticing a post in which Janet appeared pitiful. After that, everybody seemed to have shifted their alliance with her since they took pity on her.

Emily scrolled further and saw that her alternate account was being exposed. Who on earth did this? How could anyone know about my alternate account?

Her eyes suddenly turned red with tears as she slumped against Madelaine's arms and started to sob. "Who is trying to hurt me? I've never done such a thing! I have been framed!"

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Although Madelaine knew that it was all Emily's doing, she knew that they were in the same boat, so she couldn't very well expose her now. Hence, she has no choice but to pretend. "Emily, I know that you'll never do such a thing. You guys shouldn't accuse an innocent person."

Emily continued to cry while appearing aggrieved, looking pitiful and pretty. She definitely possessed great acting skills.

Her classmates started a heated discussion upon witnessing her reaction.

"Could it be possible that Emily hadn't done it?"

"She did it, without a doubt. She is great at pretending. I think we should call her Little Mouse and not Emily from now on."

"She pretended to be kind to Janet while stabbing her from the back! Emily is an evil person!"

Upon hearing that, everybody shrugged indifferently at Emily's sobs. She is too evil.

She cried even more while she heard her classmates' discussion. However, she could only endure her frustration in silence. Who is trying to get me into trouble? Great! Right now, not only do I have to bear the reputation of a thief, but I've been nicknamed 'Little Mouse'.

This is all thanks to Janet; if it weren't for her, I wouldn't be in such a horrible situation. Emily glared in the direction where Janet was seated. Their surrounding classmates immediately looked away when they met Emily's eyes by accident because her gaze was too ruthless and fierce.

After the incident with the Reddit thread, Emily had behaved much better in the past few days. In fact, she no longer had the courage to mock or speak sarcastically to Janet. She would even take a detour upon seeing Janet.

She is the kind of person who needs to be taught a lesson before she behaves obediently.

The Beasts have now been staying in Sandfort City for a few days, so they were preparing to return to Markovia to continue with their boxing training. Therefore, they made plans tonight for a get-together.

Just when she met up with the Beasts' four b*stards, she received a message from Mason.

'Are you available today? There's a banquet for the Lowry Family Conglomerate and I hope that you will attend the event as my date.'

He was very careful when he asked her the question because he was extremely nervous.

Janet frowned slightly. 'I'm not free tonight; I have already made plans with my friends.'

Mason replied immediately. 'In that case, when are you returning home?'

'I'm not sure.'

'Can I pick you up once you're done?'

Janet answered without giving it much thought. 'Why would you pick me up? It's not convenient for you at all.'

'It's convenient for me as long as you are there.'

She was at a loss for words when she read his message.

It's so difficult to get this young lady to agree to things.

Sean noticed Mason's exhausted expression, so he suggested, "Young Master Mason, why don't you rest for now? You need to attend the banquet later."

Mason kept quiet while maintaining a deep scowl. He wanted to know the gender of the friends she mentioned earlier. It can't be those four b*stards again, could it?

At the end of the banquet that night, Sean asked tentatively, "Young Master Mason, should I call Miss Janet to find out her whereabouts?"

Mason looked up, but there was a slightly different expression across his face. "Forget it; she'll get annoyed with me later."

"Why don't we call her to ask her what time she'll be done?"

"It will still be a bother to her anyway."

Sean's expression fell because he did not know what else to say.

The next thing he knew, he saw Mason taking out his cellphone to dial a number.

"What is it?" He strained his ears to listen to the background noise on Janet's end. It's slightly noisy.

"The Lowry Family Conglomerate banquet has ended. How about you?"

Janet checked the time before answering calmly, "We are almost done too."

"In that case, I'll pick you up. It's along the way."

She hesitated for a few seconds before answering helplessly, "Fine. I'm at Starlight Bar." I just can't say no to him!

In less than ten minutes, Sean parked the car in front of Starlight Bar.

Mason was just about to phone her when he saw her walking out of the bar. Furthermore, there were four guys surrounding her. It's the four b*stards, indeed.

Suddenly, Mason's expression darkened significantly.

Sean started to involuntarily shake. If I knew that this would happen, I wouldn't have egged Young Master Mason on to phone Miss Janet.

"The Beasts, you guys should go back and train well. Otherwise, I'll teach you a lesson the next time I see you guys." Janet raised her fist after warning them.

The Beasts nodded obediently. Boss has already beaten us twice after we were drunk the last time and we wouldn't want to go through that the third time.

“Well, I’m leaving now.” She suddenly squinted in pain after saying that.

Upon noticing that, Dexter took a step forward in concern to check on her. “Boss, what happened to your eyes?”

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Janet rubbed her eyes while she appeared in pain. “I think my eyelashes fell inside my eye.”

“Boss, stop rubbing your eye. I’ll blow it away for you.”

Therefore, she stuck her face out to allow Dexter to blow against her eye.

At that moment, the temperature in the car dropped to a dangerous icy level.

Sean was so shocked that he was rendered motionless. It turns out that Miss Jackson has a boyfriend! It seems like her boyfriend is one of the four guys. H-How could they be kissing right now?

Nevertheless, he did not have the courage to turn to check on Mason. He did not even need to imagine to know that Mason had a frightening expression on his face.

True to Sean’s imagination, Mason’s almond-shaped eyes now gleamed coldly and his thin lips were pressed into a severe line—a clear indication that Mason was furious.

His dark and narrow eyes glued on Janet’s back view.

He clenched his fists so tightly that the veins on his arms were visibly throbbing.

He instructed Sean intimidatingly with a moody tone, “Park right here.”

Sean was puzzled. Aren’t we picking Miss Janet up?

On the other side of the street, Dexter lowered his head while asking Janet, "Boss, do you feel better now?"

Janet squinted while nodding. "I feel much better. Well, I better get going! Remember to train well when you're back home."

The Beasts promised her simultaneously. "We know!"

She approached the side of the road. Just when she was about to phone Mason, she received a text message.

Mason: 'I have something to attend to suddenly, so I can't pick you up. You should be careful.'

Janet: '...'

She was at a loss for words. What is wrong with this man tonight? He's been pestering me for the whole day, but he decides not to come pick up with just a message. Forget it; it's fine even if he isn't dropping by.

She returned to the Jackson residence while feeling a little lost.

Upon arriving home, Janet threw herself onto the bed. Suddenly, there was a swooshing sound, so she woke with a start.

She prepared herself to attack, but she caught sight of Mason when she turned.

However, she noticed that the man's eyes no longer looked pretty and charming like before; instead, they looked icy-cold. She regarded him in confusion while asking indifferently, "What's up with you?"

Mason pursed his lips together, pulling her into his arms without uttering a word.

Janet was confused by his actions. Her keen sense of smell immediately picked up the alcoholic stench emitting from his body. Did he drink alcohol today? "Let me go; what on earth..."

Nevertheless, before she could complete her sentence, he sealed her ruby-red lips with his.

Damn it!

Her eyes shot open in surprise as she stood rooted to the spot without knowing how to fight back.

She would never expect someone to kiss her by force, not even in her wildest dreams.

However, no matter how hard she struggled, the man didn't seem to plan to release her.

With that, Janet squinted and viciously bit Mason's lips before roughly shoving him away.

Upon the sudden impact, Mason was thrown back against the wall and his broad shoulders made an audible dull thud against the wall.

She asked in anger and embarrassment, "What are you doing?"

The man's eyes were bloodshot and he had a dejected look. "Janet, I can't accept it." His husky voice reverberated against her ears. "I saw it; I can't accept another man touching you."

She frowned slightly. In the beginning, she didn't quite catch what he meant. Nevertheless, she realized with a start after a moment. No wonder there's such a huge difference in his attitude in less than half an hour. It's possible that he saw Dexter blowing against my eye at the entrance of the bar. So, did he misunderstand the situation?

"Is there anything else?" She approached him and stood in front of him while tugging at his sleeve.

However, Mason did not respond to her because he knew that his feelings for her were unrequited. The girl has never mentioned that she fancies me nor has she expressed any desire to be with me. What gives me the right to say those things? However, I just can't endure to witness Janet being intimate with another man. The anger is burning and consuming me alive—and it's almost destroying me.

Janet burst out in laughter while being amused. I'm giving him a way out; why isn't he taking it? He looks almost like a new bride feeling sorry for herself and being pitiful.

She calmly explained in response to his silence, "He is my younger brother." She had to stifle a chuckle while saying that.

Upon hearing her explanation, his eyes suddenly brightened before sparkling in excitement.

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"He's not my biological brother, but he might as well be one."

Mason didn't seem quite satisfied with that answer.

Janet felt helpless, so she explained further, "I had an eyelash in my eye earlier. He was helping me to get rid of it by blowing at my eye. There's nothing going on between us."

In all honesty, she had been observing him from the very beginning. Hence, she was observing the micro expression and all its changes across his face. From the beginning to the end, isn't he... jealous? Is he jealous?

"Aren't you leaving yet?" She had barely uttered those words when he suddenly wrapped her in his arms again. Is he trying to force a kiss on me again?

Janet thought that Mason was about to lose control again, so she was completely prepared for his second attempt. If he dares to kiss me again, I'll beat him up this time.

Nevertheless, Mason did not proceed to the next step. After a moment, he heard his deep and gentle tone just above her head. "Janet, were you explaining the situation to me? Janet, can I claim that you care a little about me too? Or maybe that you are slightly in love with me?"

He sounded extra careful, as if he was afraid that he might scare her away.

Am I explaining? Do I care about him?

Janet wasn't quite sure.

I think there is some truth to all of the above.

Mason had an idea deep down in his heart when she remained silent, knowing that she wouldn't voice out her thoughts. That's fine because I can wait for her as long as she gives me a chance.

"Don't do that in the future because it makes me very scared." She took a step back from his embrace after saying that and kept a distance from him. Earlier, I actually felt relaxed and comfortable the moment he embraced me. That feeling is too strange for comfort. This isn't good because I'm used to being alone. I don't want anyone else to disrupt my daily routine.

"Sure, I'll be gentler in the future." Mason stared at Janet's red lips while swallowing involuntarily. In reality, that felt even better than my imagination. I wonder when I can try that again.

Janet saw blood slightly oozing from his lips, realizing that it was most probably a result of her bite earlier and she scowled. "Sit down. I'll apply some medication for you."

"Sure." He tried his best to suppress the surging lust within his body.

She placed the medical kit on the floor. After that, she partially crouched down. This position is sort of... suggestive... and strange.

Mason saw her hesitation, so he encouraged her with his husky and sexy tone, "I will not take advantage of you." Even if I were to do that, I'll do that in the open. Sooner or later, I'll get her to willingly accept me.

Hence, Janet did not comment further.

She partially crouched down to apply some medication for him.

At that moment, even the sound of their mingled breathing sounded especially suggestive.

It was especially true when they heard each other's breathing in the dark and confined space.

Nevertheless, it was fortunate that Mason enjoyed the torture.

Time slowly flew past, making it feel like half a century had passed when Janet finally announced, "It's done."

He looked down at her when she said that, noticing that she looked especially petite. Her shirt was obviously too large for her as her collar was wide and loose, naturally exposing her fair and smooth skin.

As a mortal male, I'd be impotent if I'm not driven by lust at all. Furthermore, the young lady is the love of my life. I have to stop looking because I'm losing control.

Janet noticed his gaze, so she covered her chest with her hand. Then, she asked unhappily, "Where are you looking at?"

He cleared his throat in embarrassment while looking away.

"Did you come over with Sean?" she asked lazily.

"I drove here alone."

She cocked a brow at him. "Were you driving under the influence?"

"I'm not tipsy anymore."

Mason felt lucky that he did not drink much in the banquet.

Since Janet was done with treating his wound, she left to have a shower. She had a bathrobe on her when she exited the bathroom. Hence, her fair and slender neck seemed especially tempting.

His originally suppressed, burning lust rose once again.

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"You..." Janet glanced at him while pointing at his nose. "Have a nosebleed."

Mason touched his nose when he heard that and, true enough, it was damp. She facepalmed and commented helplessly, "I'll help you to stop the bleeding." She supported him to take a seat while bending down to stop his nosebleed.

From his angle, he had a great view of her; the longer he stared at her, the warmer he felt. She noticed that as well and urged him, "You better take a cold shower now." Then, she placed the ointment on the table. "Take it along with you before you leave. Apply this once a day, and bear in mind to avoid spicy foods."

Right after her advice, his phone started to ring. She was already reading a book while he answered the call next to her. "Yeah, I'm not going to the company tomorrow. I'm planning to head to the stone-betting market with Henry because I heard from Old Man Wells that there are fresh stocks."

Upon hearing Mason's claims, Janet paused midway while she was flipping through the pages of her book. She had been too busy lately, so she had forgotten to purchase a crystal jade for herself. She could still vividly recall the feeling of the gemstone that she bought for Old Madam Lowry.

After Mason hung up on the call, she asked him softly, "Are you going to the stone-betting market?"

He nodded in response. "Are you interested in stone-betting too?"

She gave it a thought before answering, "Do you recall that piece of crystal jade that I purchased for Old Madam Lowry? It looks good and I feel like I have some sort of natural instincts for these stones." I can't possibly tell him that I've been blacklisted by all the stone-betting markets during the time when I was in Markovia, can I?

Upon hearing that, Mason's lips curled into a loving smile. "Sure, I'll pick you up after school tomorrow." This is just right. I've been wanting to spend more time with the young lady.

The next day, Janet arrived at school. Due to the incident involving the Reddit post, everybody now treated her much better. Therefore, she felt more relaxed and happier than before. Just when she was on the way to the washroom, she suddenly heard Madelaine's frustrated voice. "I noticed that you've been following Janet every day. Are you her shadow?"

Abby retorted angrily, "I like Janet. Is that any of your business? You better be a good dog and return to Emily."

Janet immediately entered the washroom and poked her head in to observe the situation. She saw Abby confronting a few female hooligans from Class F; they were not interested in studies and were usually involved in fights instead. Well, since Abby is voicing aloud that she is supporting me, there is no reason for me to hide or shy away.

Madelaine had her arms folded in front of her chest while she snorted in disdain. "How dare you speak of Emily! Isn't it Janet's fault that everybody is finding fault with Emily? You shouldn't be under the impression that Emily can't defeat Janet. She just doesn't want to do anything, which is why I can't just sit back without retaliating. Hence, I'm here to teach Janet's shadow a lesson."

Abby usually maintained an adorable and soft personality, but she now seemed courageous and vicious. "You are spouting nonsense! Emily is receiving her karma. Nobody asked her to accuse Janet!"

Madelaine snorted contemptuously. "You seem to be shameless, Abby. Why didn't I notice that previously? You look like a guard dog protecting its master at the mention of Janet."

Abby's face instantly flushed. Just outside the washroom, Janet's eyes narrowed slightly as they gleamed intimidatingly. She had her hands in her pockets when she barged into the washroom. She took a step forward to yank Madelaine's hair. "Tell me—who is the dog? Who is the master? Who is the shadow?"

Madelaine and the hooligans from Class F were all stumped at Janet's sudden appearance. None of them were expecting this violent woman, Janet, to show up. She's frightening when she starts to beat people up!

"You... You better release me." However, no matter how hard Madelaine tried to do so, she just couldn't free herself from Janet's grip.

Upon witnessing that, the female hooligans from Class F were about to move forward to hit Janet. However, Janet increased her strength, causing Madelaine to scream in pain. Janet's red lips parted slowly and her tone sent chills down their spine. "Whoever takes another step forward will end up like her."

Upon hearing that, the hooligans took a few steps back. They heard of her fighting capabilities before, so they knew that it wouldn't be beneficial to offend her. She had beaten Jennifer so badly that the latter dropped out of school.

Madelaine was stunned into silence. Shouldn't these hooligans be well-equipped at beating people up? Why are they scared witless when they're facing Janet?