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"Wait. Mr. Hayes, I heard that your wife used to work in the finance industry. How about we let her in on this? Maybe she can offer us some insights and suggestions?"

Sasha was stunned. She didn't expect anyone to stop her and invite her to join a meeting that seemed rather important.

Me? Joining them? How can that work? I am not a part of this company, and the projects Hayes Corporation invests in are valued at over ten billion. If I make a mistake, I will cause my husband to lose a fortune.

Sasha instinctively wanted to reject that offer.

Unfortunately, the man sitting behind the desk was amused and was smiling at her. He nodded and replied, "That sounds fantastic. Sasha, you can sit there."

Sasha was speechless.

She had no choice but to shoot an angry glare at the guy before she walked over and sat beside the top managers.

The managers, however, handed her a thick proposal after she sat down.

"Here's the gist of it, Mrs. Hayes. The company recently bought a piece of land in an auction. The land is rather vast and we can build houses and apartments on it. Our problem is this if we build everything and its surroundings remain undeveloped, then the prices of real estate will be stagnant, and we won't be able to attract many buyers."

One of the managers gave Sasha the cliff's note version of what was going on.

Projects like those were pretty common for a company like Hayes Corporation.

Yet, they asked me to stay here for the meeting. Why? Did they really encounter something they can't solve? Or are they just curious about how brainy Mrs. Hayes actually is?

Sasha flipped through the thick documents she had with her. A moment later, she replied calmly, "This is not a good place to build a residential area at all."

"Huh?" blurted someone. The top managers instantly looked surprised.

"Why would you think that, Mrs. Hayes?"

"That's simple. The land is located in an old manufacturing district. The government may have made new plans to build more facilities in its surroundings; the previous facilities surrounding that piece of land were chemical factories."

"So?"

"So it's obvious, isn't it? Those chemical factories had been operating for years, so the chemical waste had already polluted its surroundings. Who would live in a place like that? What do we do if something bad happens? Can the company afford to compensate everyone?"

All it took was a few words from Sasha to shut everyone up.

Most employees working there were aware of all that.

However, it was impressive that Sasha, who had never worked in the office or learned anything about the project, made that discovery within a few minutes.

They couldn't deny that Sasha was truly something else.

"Well then, what do you think we should do with this piece of land?"

"Let's do something commercial. We already have a lot of shopping malls in Avenport though, so we should look into importing foreign products to attract clients. Maybe something like duty-free outlet stores?"

"Huh?"

Those words truly shook the top managers to their cores.

She actually suggested setting up duty-free outlet stores? My gosh, that brain of hers is truly something else.

We have been discussing the matter for so long, but we can't come up with any solution. I can't believe that Mrs. Hayes managed to solve this issue so quickly.

Everyone started looking at Sasha differently.

"Mr. Hayes, your wife is truly incredible. I can't believe that we never thought of something like that. Also, who would've thought that we have an expert like this right under our noses?"

"Exactly. Mrs. Hayes, we heard that you used to work in the finance industry. Where are you working now?"

"Huh?"

Sasha was a little troubled, so she shot a look at the man sitting opposite of her.

She didn't want to let others know that she used to work at Wall Street. They will probably skin me alive if they figure it out.

Sebastian raised his brows.

He had been enjoying the show from the side, but he stood up from his chair at that moment and walked over.

"If everyone's okay with it, then do as my wife suggested."

"What?" blurted Sasha, who was surprised once more.

Isn't that a little impulsive? All I did was share my opinion. They're going to spend billions on that one suggestion?

"Sebby, that's..."

"Yes, we're definitely okay with it. I think Mrs. Hayes' suggestion is amazing."

"I think so too, but I think we'll have to get some other large corporations to set up shop on our land. I heard that those corporations have high expectations, so there's no saying if they would do that," said another top manager, who pointed out the issue that came with that proposal.

Sasha has been listening on the side. She didn't even think about it before she blurted, "Why bother getting them to set up shop on our land? We can just collaborate with them and focus on getting them hooked. That will cause a slight delay before we get our profit, but it'll still be in our pockets eventually, right?"

No one spoke.

It was pin-drop silence.

The office became so quiet that it felt like someone had pushed the mute button and shut everyone up within a second.

Even Sebastian couldn't speak.

Sasha didn't know what to do about that.

Shoot, did I say something wrong? Was that too cruel? Yeah, I guess I was borderline conning the large corporations...

Sasha stood up right away and approached her husband carefully before saying, "Sebby, d-don't be mad, okay? I was just bullsh*tting.

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Sebastian's eyes twitched.

After a while, he lowered his head and nudged Sasha's head. "What do you mean 'nonsense'? This is good!"

"Huh?"

"What are you guys standing around for? Sasha has already done all the brainstorming for you and you still don't know what to do?" he said in a disgusted tone, glaring around at the senior executives of the company who were still loitering in the office.

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The senior executives immediately came to their senses. Their presence was no longer welcome. They picked up the plans spread out on the table and walked out of the office with their heads ducked in embarrassment.

Wow, Mrs. Hayes is really clever! What a smart woman!

After the senior executives had all left, a quiet peace descended over the office. Sasha was still standing at the head of the table, looking rather embarrassed.

"Sebby, earlier..."

"Why don't you just come and work for the company? We've just recently gone through a volatile time and most of our departments are understaffed... I think you're very suited to do investment planning," Sebastian blurted out suddenly.

He reached out a hand to gently tuck a stray strand of hair behind Sasha's ears.

Sasha was stunned into silence.

Work here? In this company? What about Wand Enterprise then? That's my own family's business. I've never considered working here. Wouldn't that be a bad idea? After all, I'm not just any other person; I'm his wife.

Sasha fretted to herself.

That was the difference between Sasha and those other women. Back then, Xandra had always hoped to use her relationship with Sebastian to attain a position in the company.

Roxanne, too, had always wanted to join the company.

Sasha was the only woman who was averse to becoming a part of the company.

"What's wrong? You don't want to work for the company? Sasha, this is a family business. You're my wife; shouldn't you help lighten my burdens? Do you want to see me get overworked and exhausted?"

Sebastian saw the reluctance on Sasha's face and pouted. His handsome face became gloomy and he pulled his hand away from her unhappily.

Sasha was rendered speechless. Why is he acting like a child? His expression changed so quickly!

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"No, no, that's not what I meant. Listen to me. It's not that I don't want to help you out in the company. I'm just afraid that my presence here would reflect badly on you. After all, I'm not just any other person; I'm your wife."

"What's wrong with you being my wife? Can't my wife work for me?"

Huh!

"Or are you unwilling to work under me? That's not a problem! I'll let you have my position in the company. I'm fine with that."

He's getting more and more outrageous! Sasha thought secretly to herself.

In the end, Sasha could not refuse him and she gave in to his request to join the company.

Little did she know that Sebastian had asked her to join the company because after he had hugged her, he could no longer smell the perfume.

He was happy as long as he did not smell it.

A man's mind was sometimes just that simple.

Two days after that, Sasha started working at Hayes Corporation. The household affairs were handed over to Wendy and Sabrina.

What is the meaning of this? Am I, daughter of the Hayes family, not good enough for Hayes Corporation? Did he forget that I used to be in charge of Hayes Corporation? Sabrina thought angrily to herself when she heard about the turn of events.

At that moment, her nephews and niece ran up to her and said comfortingly, "Aunt Sabrina, don't be upset! Daddy asked you to stay home and look after us because he said this is the most important task!"

"Are you joking with me? Are the three of you rascals really the most important thing?"

"Of course not! The most important thing is Uncle Devin! Aunt Sabrina, let me tell you something. Today, I overheard Daddy talking as he was leaving for work. I heard him say that Uncle Devin will be coming over and he needs someone to receive him."

My God! Sabrina's eyes lit up when she heard the boy's words.

Is Devin really coming over?

He really is the most important thing! Well, it seems my baby brother is treating me quite well. Who else would be home to receive him but me?

After that, she happily took her nephews and niece out to play.

Two hours later, the hospital called Sebastian.

"Mr. Hayes, would you be able to bring your mother in for an appointment today? I want check the effects of her last treatment."

"Today?" Sebastian frowned. Ever since Sasha started working in the company, it's really difficult to handle any family affair that requires an adult to carry out!

Sebastian decided to take his mother to the hospital himself.

Frieda was happy to see Sebastian home again so soon. "Sebby! Here, have some candy."

Giving him candy was the only way she knew how to express her feelings.

Sebastian stretched out his slender fingers and gently plucked the candy from her palm. "Mom, we are going to the hospital together today."

"Okay, that sounds great! I'm going to the hospital with my Sebby!"

Frieda's face lit up with joy. She happily danced into her room and returned with a little basket hanging on her arm. Then, she looked at Sebastian expectantly.

The little basket had once belonged to Vivian.

The two of them played a game of hide-and-seek. Vivian lost and she gave the basket to Frieda as a prize.

Sebastian looked at his mother. He was not guite sure what to feel.

He glanced at the basket. Then, he turned and merely said, "Let's go."

Frieda paused.

She seemed to be thinking hard about something. Then, she suddenly turned back into the house.

Sebastian was flabbergasted by her sudden action.

After waiting for a long while, Frieda reemerged again holding two pieces of cake wrapped in brown paper.

"Why are you bringing these with you? Are you afraid you'll get hungry on the way there?"

"No, I'm bringing it for Sasha's friend," Frieda said casually. There was no clarity to be seen in her eyes.
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