Chapter 26 Set Up Her Office

Benjamin cast a meaningful glance at Arissa and ordered, "Ethen, set up her office!"

His expression was unreadable, puzzling Arissa further. Why does he keep looking at me that way? It's as if he's harboring doubt toward me.

She got up and said with a smile, "Thank you for the approval."

Benjamin glanced at her and returned to his seat behind the office desk, his sharp gaze remaining fixed on Arissa.

"Go ahead and tell me your conditions, expected salary, and benefits."

She did not expect him to agree so easily, and the corners of her mouth lifted.

"The terms that were discussed earlier are fine. You can decide if I deserve more!" Arissa would not raise her asking price.

Benjamin raised his brows at her agreeable manner and glanced at Ethen, then back at Arissa.

"You're under a probation period of one month, and your salary will be based on your previous one during this time. I need to see results within a month to decide if you'll be converted into a permanent employee and get a raise."

Arissa nodded and said, "All right!"

There was not much to discuss.

Benjamin shot a meaningful glance at Ethen, who immediately caught on.

He bowed and said to her, "Ms. York, would you like me to take you to your office now or..."

"Let's go and meet everyone else first. However, I need some time to tend to my personal matters today. I'll officially start tomorrow. Is that okay?" Arissa looked at both of them and asked.

"No problem! Come this way. I'll show you around!" Ethen immediately agreed and brought her out.

Arissa bid Benjamin goodbye before following Ethen out.

She secretly breathed a sigh of relief when she was outside, having escaped from the man's imposing gaze.

Benjamin's dark eyes followed her retreating figure, and an unfathomable expression hung on his face.

"Ms. York, this way!" Ethen was delighted that they finally managed to recruit Arissa.

She liked his easy-going manner, too. Arissa laughed and said, "We're going to be colleagues now. You don't need to address me as Ms. York. Just call me by my name!"

"How could I? You're my idol!" Ethen was filled with excitement.

"Oh?"

Arissa was taken aback and said with a smile, "It's such an honor, but it's better for you to call me by name as we'll be working together henceforth."

Ethen laughed and said, "I'll call you Ms. York and tell the Engineering Department that it's your turf now!"

Arissa nodded. "All right!"

It does not matter how he addresses her.

Ethen brought her to the department, explaining the organizational structure and the different levels while she listened attentively.

Soon, they arrived at the IT department, which was under the Engineering Department. Ethen clapped his hands, but no one noticed as they were all wearing earphones.

"They're all too absorbed in their tasks," Ethen said apologetically.

"It's okay. That's normal!"

Arissa did not take it to heart, knowing people in her field often had to be absolutely focused when working. Programming, in particular, had no room for interruptions.

Ethen took her to the office and said, "See if there's anything else you need and let me know."

Arissa looked around the office and was satisfied. "It looks fine. I'll let you know if I need anything else."

"Okay!" Ethen said while nodding.

She turned to leave but found that everyone had gathered by the door, taking her by surprise.

"Welcome, Ms. York!"

Everyone was applauding as welcome, and there were flower baskets too.

Arissa was taken aback. She did not expect them to be so welcoming and rubbed her nose.

"Thank you!"

"Ms. York, we have been looking forward to your arrival for a long time. You're finally here!"

Chapter 27 I Have Children

"That's right. Ever since Mr. Frank told us you'd join us, we've been looking forward to it. At long last!"

"Ms. York, I'm your fan. Please remember me!"

"Ms. York, I'm from the same school as you, but I'm your junior. Remember me too! I'm Six!"

"Go away, Six. Ms. York, notice me! I'm Three."

There were more than ten of them, and they were all talented IT people with their own unique skills. Arissa could not tell who was who in such a short time, so she merely smiled adoringly at her colleagues.

Ethen explained, "They like to use code names to address one another. It's according to the order of which they joined the team."

After hearing his explanation, Arissa nodded understandingly and introduced herself, "Hello, everyone. I'm Arissa York."

"Welcome, welcome!"

Everyone was very friendly. "Haha! Our department has a beauty now. Ms. York's beauty is for sure able to make the others pale in comparison. The other departments will be green with envy!"

"Ms. York, do you have a boyfriend?"

"Ms. York, you can consider me if you don't!"

"Get lost, loser. Ms. York should consider me first!"

Arissa watched their antics and was amused by them. "Sorry, but I already have children!" I don't even have a boyfriend, but I do have kids.

Everyone's eyes widened in surprise.

"No way. Ms. York, you have kids?"

"Ms. York, you're so young. I can't tell."

Arissa laughed and said, "I gave birth when I was young."

Ethen, too, was taken aback. He did not expect her to have children as her resume stated that she was single. Could it be that she gave birth before marriage?

At that thought, Ethen secretly felt sorry for her. I wonder which jerk took advantage of her.

"That's enough. Look at the lot of you, getting all riled up. Get back to work. Don't scare her away!" Ethen gestured for the crowd to disperse.

"Ms. York, we'll treat you to a meal later!" they all said to her.

"I'm afraid I can't make it today. I still have things to attend to, and I need to leave in a bit. I'll officially start tomorrow, so I'll treat you all to a meal then!"

She was their superior, and it would not be appropriate for her to let them pay.

"Okay!"

Everyone laughed and did not have any objections. The atmosphere was lively. They slowly dispersed after greeting her and got back to their tasks.

Arissa was initially worried that the environment there would be solemn. Unexpectedly, she was wrong. It was very upbeat and casual. Thus, she was already looking forward to starting her new job.

"I still need to go over the procedures, right? I'll do it now and officially start work tomorrow."

Arissa wanted to get everything settled on the day itself.

"No rush. The contract isn't done yet, so you can leave first."

Ethen saw that she was busy, so he was in no rush to run over the procedures with her.

"Okay. In that case, I'll sign the contract once it's done. I'll be taking my leave then!" She shook his hand and continued, "I'll treat you some other day!"

She would not have thought about going back there if it was not for him.

"I should be the one treating you since your arrival will lighten my burden."

Arissa's addition to the company meant that he no longer had to worry about recruitment as she was a perfect fit. "I'll send you off, Ms. York."

She laughed and said goodbye to the rest, "I'll be leaving first!"

No one responded as they were all working with their earphones on. She would have felt awkward if it was not for the warm welcome she received just now.

Noticing her awkwardness, Ethen chuckled.

"They're always like that. I hope that you'll get used to it soon. If you need anything, you can let them know or you can just text them in the group!"

Chapter 28 Is He Her Son

Arissa nodded. She agreed to let Ethen add her to the chat group.

Besides, they exchanged their WhatsApp IDs.

After they walked into the elevator, Ethen carefully asked, "Ms. York, I didn't know you were married. All this while I thought you were single."

Arissa was stunned for a moment. Then, she smiled faintly. "I'm not technically married. Is there a problem?"

"Nope!" Laughing, Ethen replied, "I never expected you had children already. How old are they?"

"They're five years old, and the reason I wanted to leave is so that I can settle their school enrollment procedures by today."

Since I brought the kids back, I need to send them to preschool. I feel worried if I leave them at home all the time.

"Do you need any help?" Ethen asked with concern.

"It's okay. I had already contacted the school before I came back. I'm going to settle the paperwork today. But, thanks for the offer anyway," Arissa replied politely.

Ethen nodded.

Before they walked out of the elevator, Arissa wondered if she should ask about Benjamin's personal information from Ethen.

Then, some people greeted Ethen and curiously inquired who she was. Ethen patiently introduced her to everyone, and she responded with a polite smile.

"Ms. York, what do you think of our company?" Ethen asked as he sent her out of the door.

Arissa answered, "Not bad. I love the lively working environment here."

Ethen was nonplussed. "That's because you haven't really started working here yet. Once you start working, you'll know. Mr. Graham is very strict with his workers, and I sincerely hope he will not scare you away."

Arissa raised an eyebrow. "Yes, I noticed that when I had a short conversation with him earlier. But it's all right. I'll get used to it!"

As her job revolved around data and figures, it was cut and dry. She had nothing to worry about, especially her boss' mood. No one could deny her work if she did it decently.

Ethen was impressed by her positive attitude. "Just contact me anytime if you need my help."

Arissa nodded. After some thought, she said, "You don't have to follow me to the car. But, Mr. Frank, may I ask you something?"

"Sure! Please ask away." Ethen was taken aback as he saw her hesitation.

"Does Mr. Graham have a child?" Arissa inquired carefully in a low voice. She was afraid that someone would get the wrong idea about her if they overheard her asking Benjamin in person.

Benjamin did not trust her that much in the first place. If she asked about his private life, he would think she was interested in him.

Ethen was stunned for a moment as he was a little surprised by Arissa's question.

He answered with a smile, "Oh, didn't you know? Mr. Graham has a son."

Does Ms. York have a crush on Mr. Graham?

Ethen stared at Arissa. He noted the shock written on Arissa's face, but he could see that there was not the slightest hint of disappointment.

He was confused because Arissa looked guite excited as he broke the news.

"All right, thank you. I shall leave now then," Arissa said as she came back to her senses. Then, she turned away and left.

Ethen glanced at her and left after a moment.

Arissa crossed the road and sat on a bench beside the road. Her heart was racing.

Benjamin has a son. Is that my son? How is he? Is Benjamin treating him well?

But when she thought about Danna and Benjamin's relationship, and then the child, her mind was in a mess.

She quickly gave Bradley a call.

Her voice was trembling as she spoke. "Bradley, help me to look up Benjamin Graham. And try to get a picture of his son."

"Boss, don't you think it's too risky to investigate Benjamin Graham?" Bradley asked hesitantly. "Unless... You suspect Benjamin's son is the child that someone took away from you?" He was shocked by this realization.

"I'm not sure. I've met Benjamin, and he looks a lot like my children," Arissa lowered her voice as she thought it was inappropriate to talk about it openly near the main road.

"Anyway, help me check up on Benjamin Graham," she repeated her words.

"All right!"

She hung up and rested for a while before she took a taxi back.

Chapter 29 Is She Interested In You

Benjamin stood beside the window on the top floor of Graham Group and looked out from it. His gaze focused on the woman sitting on the bench at the roadside, and he was slightly confused.

Why is she still here? And why is she sitting there?

Benjamin frowned as he realized his attention was all focused on a woman he had just met.

Ethen entered through the door and saw Benjamin standing there with his hands shoved into his pocket. It looked like he was enjoying the scenery. He seemed domineering even from his back, and Ethen's respect toward him grew even more.

Ethen greeted, "Mr. Graham!"

Benjamin turned his head to him and asked in a low tone, "Did Arissa request for anything?"

"No, she didn't. Ms. York said she was satisfied with the working environment, and everyone was excited for her to join the team." Ethen could not hold his joy when he reported to Benjamin.

Benjamin narrowed his eyes.

Everyone liked her?

Benjamin let out a light snort and continued, "Don't judge a book by its cover. Wait until she proves herself worthy."

When he turned to the window again, Arissa had disappeared from his sight. His eyebrows furrowed deeper.

"Yes, Sir!"

Ethen stared at Benjamin for a moment. He felt that Benjamin did not know Arissa well and may have misunderstood her. Thus, he felt the need to explain to him.

"Mr. Graham, I may not have known Ms. York for a very long time, but I feel she's not a scheming woman."

She is a graceful and open-minded person. It must be someone else who hacked Mr. Graham's computer last night.

"Mr. Graham, what do you think?" Ethen asked carefully.

"Ethen, I think you have preconceived ideas about her already. Some people hide their intentions very well because they plotted the plan in detail." Benjamin shot a burning gaze at Ethen.

"Yes!" Ethen blurted, taken aback. He lowered his head and dared not talk back.

Mr. Graham already had the idea that Arissa came here for a reason. I might worsen her impression in his heart if I explained too much.

"Oh, yes. Before Ms. York left, she asked me a question about you."

Benjamin raised his brow and stared at him. He asked in an icy tone, "What did she ask?"

Ethen replied softly, "She asked whether you have a son."

A sharp look fleeted across Benjamin's eyes. He was confused why Arissa would inquire about his son.

He continued, "What else did she ask?"

"Nothing else. I told Ms. York you have a son, and then she left the scene. She looked shocked," Ethen carefully answered as he observed the expression on Benjamin's face. He could not tell how Benjamin felt, but he was eager to know about his thoughts on the matter.

"Mr. Graham, could it be possible that Ms. York has a crush on you?"

Benjamin shot him a sharp glare. At that moment, a series of footsteps sounded outside the door.

Danna entered the room and shouted, "Benjamin!"

Benjamin's face darkened. His cold glare swept over Ethen.

Ethen was speechless.

Why is Mr. Graham glaring at me? It wasn't me who let her in.

"Benjamin!"

Danna greeted Ethen with a smile when she realized he was in the room as well. "Hello, Ethen. I'm not interrupting something, right?"

Smiling politely, Ethen replied, "No. We're done."

He nodded at Benjamin and turned to leave.

Luckily Ms. York is gone. What a fuss it would be if they met each other.

"Benjamin, I brought you some desserts."

Benjamin stared at her intently and icily. "What do you want?"

Danna was stunned. Recently, she felt that Benjamin was more distant from her, which made her heart ache.

"Benjamin, I'm sorry. It's my fault, and I won't do it again. Please forgive me." She walked forward and tugged on Benjamin's shirt.

Benjamin moved away and had a mildly irritated look on his face. He growled, "You should not apologize to me. You should apologize to my son."

Danna started to panic as she saw Benjamin in rage. She stammered as she explained herself. "I-I went there once, but the butler won't let me in. I didn't get to meet Gavin!"

Benjamin's stern look froze on his face. He uttered with a fierce tone, "Don't hurt him even if you can't bring yourself to love him. From now on, leave him alone. Please leave if you have no other business with me. I'm busy with my work."

You More than Anything in the World Chapter 30

Chapter 30 No Love For You

"Benjamin!" Feeling devastated, Danna ran up to him and hugged him from behind.

"I was wrong, Benjamin. After all these years, you're still cold and hostile toward me. My heart hurts so much just from thinking about it. Can't you just forgive me? I'm really sorry. I-I shouldn't have set you up. But I really like you, and I want to be with you! Why aren't you able to forgive what I did? It's not that I don't love Gavin. I'm just worried that I was pampering him too much!"

Mustering up her courage, Danna continued with a quivered voice, "Does this mean that you're not going to be with me anymore, Benjamin?"

She only wanted to stay beside him. After all, they were in a romantic relationship. Danna wondered whether she was in the wrong all along.

Benjamin felt uncomfortable by Danna's sudden action. Immediately, he freed himself and turned around to see Danna's eyes filled with tears. He frowned heavily and shouted, "You knew I hate being set up!"

Danna shivered uncontrollably as her eyes met with Benjamin's cold glare.

He walked toward the window and looked outside.

In a cold and chilling voice, Benjamin went on, "You were aware of the consequences, and you knew what you were doing. Are you that desperate be a part of the Graham family?"

Danna was embarrassed upon hearing Benjamin's words. Clenching her fists tightly, she whimpered, "I love you. I want to be with you, and I want to get married to you. Am I wrong for thinking that way?"

Benjamin turned on his heel and looked at her with distant, cold eyes. "But I don't love you at all!"

"Impossible!" Danna staggered, unable to accept what Benjamin had said to her.

She stepped forward and tried to wrap her arms around his neck.

Just as she was about to lean forward and kiss him, Benjamin caught a whiff of the pungent perfume smell on her. Instantly, he felt dizzy and nauseous.

Benjamin pushed Danna away and glared sharply at her.

"Stop doing all the things that I despise!"

Danna felt intensely frustrated. After all these years, Benjamin never forgave her for what she did. Not only that, he became even more hostile toward her.

It's normal for couples to kiss, isn't it? Why is he rejecting my kiss? He even said it's something that he despises?

Danna scoffed quietly.

Benjamin had always indulged her wishes when they were together in the past.

"Why?" As tears brimmed in her eyes, Danna could not help but question him. "Are you in love with someone else?"

Having heard what Ethen had said a while ago, Danna panicked upon seeing how Benjamin behaved toward her.

"You know I'm not in the mood for this. Just leave."

Benjamin gave her a cold glance before returning to his desk.

"Don't come looking for Gavin. Even if you do, you won't be able to see him at all!"

Danna was infuriated. I've done so much for him, and yet I get nothing in return?

"Benjamin... The elders want us home for dinner."

Benjamin froze. Without lifting his head, he answered, "All right."

As she looked at his cold demeanor, Danna's heart ached badly. Unfortunately, she was madly in love with his handsome face.

As she regained her composure, Danna placed the food next to Benjamin and said, "I'll take my leave, then."

Benjamin remained silent in return.

Upon seeing his muted response, tears welled up in Danna's eyes. She covered her mouth and darted out of the room.

Benjamin cast a glance at the door before returning his gaze to the lunch box Danna had left on the desk. A darkened expression appeared on his face as he was reminded of how Danna had tried to harm his son.

Gavin had woken up in the middle of the night from a terrible nightmare. It was only at dawn that he was able to fall asleep again.

I wonder if that kid's awake now?

Meanwhile, Jasper, who was still mistaken for Gavin, was busy stuffing his mouth with food in the dining area, accompanied by the butler.

"Is there any more food left, Mr. Whitley?"

Edwin was shocked to see his enormous appetite.

"You don't eat that much normally, Gavin. Why are you eating so much all of a sudden?"

Jasper blinked and said, "It's because I'm hungry!"