My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 11 - 15

Chapter 11 An Embarrassing Encounter

The second my phone rang, the sound from outside disappeared.

Now that things had come to this point, it was impossible for me to pretend that the cubicle was empty.

Derek was the one who called me

I had no idea why he would call me. Perhaps it was just a coincidence. Fate had forced me to face them in such an extremely embarrassing situation.

Calmly, I opened the door of the cubicle and walked out. At the same time, I answered his call.

"Where are you right now?" Derek asked me from the other end of the line.

"I'm at Virtue Hospital," I replied, and hung up right away.

I had been staring at them without blinking, making sure to appear as calm and composed as possible.

These two adulterers looked as though they had seen a ghost, A moment after being dazed, they finally moved away from each other. Shane scrambled to lift up his pants and hide his shame.

Vivien, on the other hand, turned red with embarrassment. No matter how thick-skinned she might be, she would still get embarrassed after being caught in the act of committing adultery.

Moreover, I, Shane's legal wife, was the one who caught her.

Annoyed, Vivien jumped off the sink, slowly lifting up her pants.

"Now that you've seen the truth, Eveline, I suppose there's no need to inform you. Shane and I are together, and I'm pregnant. It's best that you leave as soon as possible."

Stunned, I glanced at her flat belly.

No wonder Shane was in such a hurry to get rid of my child yesterday! It turned out his mistress was also pregnant!

I glared at him and said, "You're having rough sex with a pregnant woman? Does your shamelessness know no bounds?"

Vivien scoffed at me, holding onto Shane's arm while casting me an arrogant glance.

"He enjoys doing it with me. What's wrong with that? Are you jealous? It's because of your incompetence in bed that you lost your man to me! You <u>shouldn</u>'t be blaming anyone else but yourself."

I had seen shameless people in the time I had lived on this earth, but never had I seen people who were proud of doing something so shameful.

With anger, I forced a smile. "Vivien, you're right. I'm not as competent as you in sex. I mean, just look at yourself! You <u>can</u> even moan wildly while you're in front of all this shit!"

<u>As if she</u> had been greatly insulted, <u>Vivien raised</u> her hand, intending to slap me. However, Shane grabbed her hand before she could. "Come to my office," he said to me.

Because of everything that happened yesterday, I was so scared of meeting him face to face. After all, this man was not human. He was a beast in my eyes now. But at this moment, I was no longer afraid. Perhaps it was because I had been emboldened by the fact that I had nothing left to lose.

There were many people waiting in front of his office. After Shane opened the door, I stared at his back and said, "Shane, if you have something to say to me, just say it. I have nothing to hide from you."

I deliberately humiliate him.

raised my voice

to

Shane frowned, looking back at me. He then pulled me into the room, slamming the door behind us.

Afterwards, he sat down behind the desk. The shame on his face had not completely dissipated. After drinking half a cup of water, he finally looked at me and displayed his hypocrisy. "It's not

appropriate for you to be outside in your current condition."

In response to his fake concern, I burst into a sarcastic laughter, but in my heart, I couldn't help but feel sad. "Did I mishear you, Shane? Are you trying to express your concern for me? I think it's not appropriate for you to care about your legal wife. You're about to kick me out, right? What will your beloved mistress think?" 2

I had never been this rude to anyone since I was a child.

Before all of this happened, I had determined myself to love and care for Shane for the rest of my life. But now, I thought that he wasn't worthy of a single effort I exerted in the past. I wished that I could cut open his heart, just to see how black it was. 1

Shane frowned at me, putting his hands together on the desk.

<u>"Calm down,"</u> Eveline. Since things have already come to this, there's nothing left for me to say. Let's get a divorce!"

Judging by how they were together, I guessed that it had been a long time since they hooked up. Shane was quite good at hiding their relationship. The only reason he suddenly showed his true colors was because he was anxious to marry the pregnant Vivien.

But I had no desire to help him fulfill his wish.

"And if I say no, what would you do? I admit that I was blind when I fell in love with you. I will not divorce you. If you truly want to marry her, then by all means, do it! If you want to commit bigamy, then I would not stop you. I'll even relish in seeing you go to jail!"

In the end, I could not stifle my emotions any longer, so I had to raise my voice.

Irritated, Shane pulled on his collar.

"You must be too agitated right now. Let's talk once you've calmed down."

After a while, he got up and approached me. He then continued to hurt me with his words.

"I've already made up my mind. There will be no room for negotiations, Eveline. We're going to keep the baby in Vivien's womb."

When he mentioned the baby, I thought of the black plastic bag he had in hand when he left last night. The thought alone almost shattered my heart.

"They're both your children, Shane! She's pregnant with a treasure, but I was pregnant with a trash, is that it?"

Shane bit his lower lip. "Our marriage was a mistake in the first place. Eveline, go home and pack up your belongings when you have time. We should settle this divorce peacefully."

"Peacefully, you say? That's rich coming from you!" I broke into a miserable laughter

"You forcibly aborted my child, hurt me badly, and yet you say you want a peaceful divorce? Fuck you. Let me tell you something, Shane. Since I can clea<u>rly see that</u> you're in a hurry to get rid of me, so you can welcome your new paramour', I will not let you get your happy ending. Just wait and see, you devil!" 2

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Chapter 12 Ten Thousand Dollars

I turned away without another word and rushed outside.

People looked at me with similar expressions of pity and sympathy. I hastened my pace, feeling dizzy with every step I took

My words just now had been full of false bravado. Though I knew very well that I couldn't be with Shane anymore, I'd be damned if I just stood aside and gave way. After subjecting me to such misery, it was only right that I returned the favor.

I had to move forward, no matter how difficult my future days might become.

I had to learn to live without a man, to stand on my own two feet.

I headed to the director's office on the fifth floor to report after my leave of absence. Miscarriage or not, I still had to return to work. Now that my so-called spouse had abandoned me, I had no one *else* to rely on. I need money to support my needs as much as my mother's. The doctor had said that there was still a chance she would wake up, after all.

The moment I stepped into the director's office and saw Vivien, I immediately felt the urge to turn around and flee. But I took a deep breath and braced myself, and then I calmly walked inside.

She sneered at me as I drew closer, even as she strode across the floor to get some water from a side table.

I walked up to the director and said my piece, explaining my situation and sharing my plans. He seemed to mull this over for a good while. When he finally spoke, his reluctance was evident. "Here's the thing, Eveline. A few days ago, we received a slew of complaints about you from the patients. They said you have an unpleasant attitude and dubious work ethics. As per the hospital's policies, I'm afraid we're going to have to fire you on these grounds." I was stunned speechless.

I hadn't even been working here for long. How could a bunch of patients possibly have complaints about me from out of the blue?

"Here, Dad. Drink some water." Vivien placed a glass on the director's desk.

Leroy Gentry, the director of Virtue Hospital, was indeed Vivien's father. He might not be able to fully separate his private life from his professional one, but I'd expected him to uphold some integrity at least. Now, it would appear that I had been far too naive.

"You should know that the hospital has its rules we should all abide by. We can't make an exception for you, now, can

we?"

Despite his words, Leroy truly looked to be in a dilemma. His daughter, on the other hand, leaned against his <u>massive</u> chair and smirked at me.

"I see. So that's how it is."

I slowly turned around, my temples

pounding. Still, I clung to my dignity and held my head high.

I was walking away not because I didn't want to fight for my job. I simply refused to <u>hum</u>ble myself in front of my husband's mistress.

To my utter chagrin, I found Shane standing right outside the director's office. It looked like he already knew that I was terminated. I wouldn't be surprised if he had actually conspired with Vivien to make it possible.

Ignoring him, I walked past him, as if he was air.

Just as I was about to turn the corner at the end of the hall, someone grabbed my arm and stopped me.

"Take my advice, Eveline. If you want to

just leave and disappear without a fuss. Shane is the father of my child. We are going to be a family, so you shouldn't keep pestering him so shame<u>lessly</u>."

I <u>looked down</u> to find a hand closed around my arm, five nails painted <u>with a sleek</u>, deep black. All at once, every nasty_deed these two adulterers had done just swam into my mind. I shook the hand away in disgust.

"Don't push me too far, Vivien."

A handful of nosy passersby gawked at the little scene we were making.

Before I knew it, Shane had sidled up next to Vivien and pulled her back. He shot me a blank look and pulled out a bank card from his pocket. He held it up to me.

"This has ten thousand dollars. I will give you the password as soon as you sign the divorce agreement and move out of the house."

The bastard had even prepared a bank account for when he sent me away. He had apparently taken great efforts in planning everything,

It was ridiculous how I had never-not even once-doubted his loyalty. I must be the biggest idiot in the world.

I gritted my teeth and glared at them the bank card. There was no chance in hell I was taking his money.

To my surprise, however, Vivien snatched the piece of plastic from **Shane's** hand and threw it directly at my face. It definitely caught me off-guard.

I wasn't able to dodge, and the sharp edge of the card managed to scratch at the corner of my eye. The pain was great and immediate.

I held up a hand to cover my hurt eye and lowered my head. My gaze drifted over to the bank card on the floor. For some reason, the sight of it made all my anger disappear. Instead, my heart was overcome by an unexpected wave of sorrow

I knew why they could afford to be so ruthless and arrogant, even in the face of their own wrongdoings. It was just as Viv<u>ien ha</u>d said earlier in the restroom-I <u>didn't have</u> a background to speak of. Wit<u>hout a power backing me, the only options I had were to suffer losses in one way or another.</u>

When Shane proposed to me, I had told him to be careful with his decision. My mother had already been in a vegetative state then, and she needed constant care. But he had talked big, saying that he was determined to create a happy future with me. He had told me he

would always be by my side as I waited for my mother to wake up. He was so devoted then, so resolved in marrying me. 1

And now, he was just as resolved in divorcing me.

I had been deeply moved in the past.

This time, I was brokenhearted.

I stared sadly at the man I had been calling husband in the past two years.

"Tell me, Shane, are you honestly trying to alleviate your guilt and silence your conscience with a measly ten thousand dolla<u>rs? Your principles</u> may be cheap, but do you think you can compensate for my lost youth with this?"

I tr<u>ied my</u> best to maintain my composure. If I gave in to my emotions now. I would only lose this battle. Even so. I couldn't help the slight tremor in my voice.

To his <u>cred</u>it, Shane showed some **semblance of** shame and regret over my words. He knew he was the one in the wrong. He had nothing to refute what I had said

The same could not be said about Vivien, though. She let out a loud, scornful laugh. "Your lost youth? Don't be absurd, <u>Eveline</u>. A woman like you can't even <u>bring a man any pleasure."</u>

I swung my head in Shane's direction after hearing this. His face was flushed with embarrassment. I was right Vivien's remark was something that had come from his own mouth.

I frowned at him in sheer disappointment before looking at Vivien again.

"Yes, I didn't bring him pleasure, but he is just like a pile driver when having sex with you."

These were probably the most revolting words I had ever said in my entire life.

I could see it in Vivien's face, how they had driven her to uncontrollable anger. She lunged at me like a maniac and pushed me to the floor.

I was quick to brace my hands to support my weight as I fell, but in doing so, I pierced my palms with littered shards of broken glass left lying on the floor. My back, as well as my legs, did not escape the sharp fragments, either.

I swallowed and did my best not to make a sound

Our audience had grown bigger at this point.

Vivien raised a hand, presumably to beat me further, but Shane hurriedly pulled her off me.

"Enough, Vivien! Don't do anything else."

He d<u>idn't want to make this an even bigger issue than it already was.</u> He had always been particularly sensitive about his public image.

"What's wrong? Are you feeling sorry for her now?" Vivien jeered.

Shane said nothing, but her question forced a laugh out of me.

"Regardless of your relationship, I am still his wife. I've been his wife these last two years, so isn't it only natural for him to be concerned about me?"

"Shame on you, bitch!" Vivien struggled out of Shane's hold and raised her hand again.

I was still on the floor. I closed my eyes and inhaled deeply, prepared to take the slap.

But it never came. When I looked up again, I found that her wrist was trapped in someone else's vice-like grip.

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Chapter 13 His Domineering Protection

When I raised my head, I saw Derek. He was wearing a clean, white shirt, straight suit pants, and spotless black leather shoes today. He looked inexplicably handsome and fresh.

"What an arrogant mistress you are! Whenever you're scolding other people for being shameless, you should look at yourself and remember that you're more shameless because you're just a home wrecker." 2

Although he sounded calm and his face was devoid of emotion, it seemed to me that he was intimidating.

Casually, he threw Vivien's wrist aside. But it was as if Derek had exerted so much strength, she took a few steps back, barely keeping herself standing with Shane's help.

Shane pointed at Derek and growled, "This is my family's affair, and it has nothing to do with you!"

"Oh, but it does, my friend. It has everything to do with me."

Having said that, Derek pulled me into his arms and calmly added, "If you divorce her today, I'll marry her tomorrow. What will it be, Shane Hayes? If you continue to be indecisive, you're nothing but a coward!" 1

Each word that came out of his mouth displayed how daunting he was.

Moreover, Derek was at least half a head taller than Shane. He was looking at the latter with an unwavering gaze that could send shivers down people's spines.

I was shocked that he knew Shane's full name, and even protected me so fiercely.

Never had I experienced being protected like this in my life.

He not only got my self-esteem back, he also <u>help</u>ed me vent my anger on these two adulterers.

Of course, he also managed to make Shane think that I had cheated on him.

Shane glanced at the man who was better than him in every single way. He tried to open his mouth, but soon realized that there was no rebuttal he could make. Thus, he turned his attention to me.

"Eveline, I never thought you're that kind of a person. How could you do something so shameless behind my back?" 2

The sight of his livid pale face brought joy to my heart.

He finally knew how it felt to be betrayed! Even if he didn't care about me, at the very least, he cared for his dignity

Perhaps to him, I was merely a piece of meat he didn't want to eat anymore. Even if he had thrown me away, he would not allow anyone else to eat me.

Truly, he was that kind of a person.

"Don't you have anything to do during working hours?" said a stern voice.

I looked over at the man who spoke and saw Leroy, frowning at all of us. In particular, he was glaring at Vivien. Perhaps he felt ashamed of his daughter.

Shane glanced at me and Derek a few more times before Vivien finally dragged him away. He didn't forget to pick up the bank card from the floor before leaving.

The onlookers saw that the show was over, so they slowly dispersed. Then, only I and Derek were left at the scene.

"I want to see my mom." My voice was faint, for I was still immersed in grief.

"Can you walk?" Derek glanced at my injured legs.

I nodded at him, and told him not to help me. But the second I left his arms, I felt dizzy. Right before I lost consciousness, I felt a pair of powerful arms grab me right in time.

The second I woke up, I smelled the strong scent of disinfectant.

When I opened my eyes, I realized that I was <u>lying in</u> a ward. Louise had her head dow<u>n</u>, <u>peeling</u> an apple right next to the sickbed.

"Lulu," I muttered. When she heard my voice, Louise looked up. Seeing that I was awake, she glared at me with displeasure. "You're really something, Eve, you know that? Why didn't you let me know that you're going through something like this? Am I really your best friend? I kind of want to stab you right now!"

She then used the fruit knife to pretend like she was stabbing me. I didn't move away from it, for I knew that her displeasure was just her way of showing me that she cared for me. I felt warm in my heart, and soon, tears welled up in my eyes.

<u>Louis</u>e and I were two extremely different people. She had never once cried in her life. Or at least I had never seen her shed tears since the day I met her ten years ago

Compared to her, I feel particularly <u>useless. Often</u>times, I would cry; so<u>metimes</u>, at the slightest *inc*onveniences. She hated to see me crying, and always told me that tears were useless. "Well, go on! Tell me what the hell happened." Louise finally stopped scolding me. Knowing that I couldn't hide the truth from her any longer, I figured it was best to tell her the whole story, aside from the part about Derek.

Right after I explained everything, she kicked a chair nearby.

"Fuck him! I'm going to kill that scumbag! Shane Hayes, you're a dead man!" 1

Louise had always been loyal to me. I could tell at a glance that she was ready to explode right now.

"By the way, how did you find me? Besides, it doesn't seem like we're at Virtue Hospital," I remarked.

<u>"We're at W</u>onder Hospital. After I spoke to you on the phone last night, I sensed that something was wrong. When I called you today, a man answered for you. He told me that you were here."

The man she mentioned was probably Derek.

When I thought of him, the words he stated earlier came to my mind. "If you divorce her today, I'll marry her tomorrow." I couldn't help but feel touched

"Where is he?" I asked.

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Chapter 14 So Pleasant To Hear

"He said over the phone that he had an urgent matter to deal with. I didn't see him when I got here, but they say that he has already paid for the fees before he left. By the way, who is that man? He has great moral character, and his voice is so pleasant to hear!" Louise winked at me, curious to know what I was thinking.

<u>Desp</u>ite the fact that I was merely a stranger to Derek, he had done a lot for me. It was only natural for him to deal with his own business.

"I'm asking you." Louise nudged me.

When I came to my senses, I told her about how Derek had driven me home. She didn't ask me any more questions about him.

The moment I reached out to take the apple from Louise, I saw that my hand was wrapped with layers of gauze.

Curling her lips, Louise continued slicing the apple into small pieces and fed them to me one by one. "Do you remember? When you dated Shane, I had him investigated for your sake. There were lots of negative rumors about him during his time in medical school. Once, a girl jumped off a cliff be<u>cause</u> of him and died. Later on, he was beaten badly by the girl's real boyfriend and he became bedridden for over two weeks. Just to get a recommendation for admission, he played all sorts of tricks! Did I not tell you that he's nothing but a weasel? But you were too stubborn to listen to me!" Louise said angrily.

Indeed, at the time, she was afraid that I would marry the wrong person, so she did her best to investigate Shane's background. But back then, his tenderness blinded me to the truth.

I kept my head down, silently listening to Louise scold me.

"Why did you not tell me about this? This is an outrageous thing to hide from me! Why didn't you even consider staying at my home for the time being?"

It was true that her house was quite large. Her father ran a successful business. Not once in her life had she been short on money. All she lacked was friendship and love.

Back when she was in junior high school, her father divorced her mother and married a woman who was only a few years older than Louise herself. Since then, she had become a rebellious daughter, and her grades in school drastically declined.

"It worries me that I'll only bring you misfortune," I replied.

Louise cast me a glare. "Say more things like that and I'll be angry with you! Misfortune, you say? You're my friend, Eve! You could never bring me bad luck. Do you remember how you convinced me to go to your house back then?" 1

One cold winter day, in our third year of junior high school, Louise quarreled with her father and ran away from home in a fit of anger. When I saw her, she was sitting by the side of the road, trembling from the cold.

Although we were classmates, we weren't that close. After all, she was rich, and I was merely a poor student. Usually, Louise would act arrogantly, and she was easy to anger. That was why she didn't have many true friends. But on that day, I pitied her when I saw her all by her lonesome on the roadside. I couldn't bear to turn away from her, so in the end, I convinced her to come home with me. At first, I was afraid that a rich girl like her would not get used to my house. But it was fortunate that she didn't mind anything in my house.

Since then, Louise and I had become the best of friends; perhaps even closer.

I told her that I wanted to leave the hospital, so Louise asked the doctor to confirm if there was nothing serious about my condition. The doctor told her that I just needed to recuperate for I had lost too much blood. Thus, Louise helped me complete the discharge formalities.

She was driving a new car, and it was

Hoan quite luxurious.

When I got in the car, she said, "This was a gift from my father. He gave it to me and I took it. He owes me, anyway."

I had always thought that there would never be true hatred between a father and a daughter, but the hatred between Louise and her father had continued to exist after so many years.

Truthfully, I wanted to convince her to make peace with her dad. After all, she still had the chance to keep arguing with her dad, but I was not that lucky, for I had lost mine.

I didn't know much about cars, so when Louise saw that I was looking around the car, completely clueless, she told me that this was a Lamborghini.

"A Lamborghini?" I repeated in a hushed voice. "All I've seen is a bikini."

Louise burst into laughter and gave me a thumbs up.

It was then that I thought of Derek's car.

"There's an M overlapping another M

inside a triangle. What brand of car is that?" Louise glanced at me disdainfully. "Wait a second. I think you're talking about a Maybach." "Is a Maybach expensive?" I asked.

"A Maybach is far better than my car, of course. The worst of that brand costs at least a million dollars!"

"What? How much?" I was shocked to hear it.

Louise poked my forehead with her finger. "A million dollars, Eve! Look at your prissy face. It almost makes me loathe you. It's a good thing that you saw that bastard Shane's true colors this soon. You're sexy, and you have a pretty face. You'll be able to find a good man; a better one. Just let Shane wallow in regret."

While she was speaking, I was thinking of something else.

I r<u>ecalle</u>d that Derek mentioned he was a <u>businessman</u>. A businessman driving around a luxury car worth at least a million dollars must be doing a big business!

Louise drove me back to my old house, and told me not to go out until I fully recovered. She had also asked a maid working for her family to look after me for two weeks, until the wounds on my hands had healed.

Throughout these days, Derek did not contact me again.

Each time I saw his number on my contact list, I had an impulse to dial it and say thanks to him. In the end, I decided not to do it.

Perhaps at the time, he must've helped me because of his sense of justice. He was a man running a big business. Perhaps he had already forgotten the trivial episode in his busy life.

I imagined that I would <u>never again</u> interact with him, but I was mistaken. Everything was fated to happen.

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Chapter 15 Delaying This Won't Be Good

During this period of recuperation, Louise often visited me to chat. And each time, she would bring me nutritious soup. All wounds on my body might heal, but the void left by my failed marriage might not so easily heal. Even if that wound were to heal one day, it would still leave a scar in my heart.

Shane called me several times, but not once did I answer him. Each time that I saw his name flickering on the screen of my phone, it felt like my wounded heart was being hurt again.

Truthf<u>ully</u>, I didn't want to recall what that bastard did to me. Every time I <u>remembered</u> it, I would feel as though my heart and very soul were being torn apart. It was a most painful process for me, almost akin to torture.

And since he couldn't get through to me, Shane came straight to my house.

The second I opened the door and saw him, I was about to slam at his face *wit*hout a word. But then, he reached out to hold the door.

"Eveline, we need to divorce. It wouldn't be good for either of us to delay this."

He was wrong. He was the only one who would suffer if this divorce was delayed. After all, his damned mistress was pregnant.

The more anxious he became, the less I did. Just the thought of upsetting him would instill joy in my heart.

"Shane, if you want to have fun with your shitty mistress, then do it. But don't even think of persuading me to sign the divorce agreement. Once her belly gets bigger, we'll see who the people will scorn; me or her."

After that, I slammed the door at his face. Shane kept on knocking and calling <u>my name</u> for a while, but I completely ignored him.

Later, Louise arrived and I told her how

it turned out. She praised me for what I did.

"Eve, stall him for as long as you can. After all, you're in no hurry to marry anoth<u>er ma</u>n. You can do whatever you want to do! Piss him off as much as you can. That bitch is dying to marry Shane, but you're going to make her suffer. Don't give her the satisfaction of being able to wear a wedding dress. If everyone finds out that she destroyed another woman's marriage, she'll be cr<u>iticized</u> by the public!"

Louise's words made a lot of sense. It was true that I must be tough. When I thought of what had happened, I realized that aside from the fact that I had no powerful family background, another <u>reason Shane</u> and Vivien were pushing me around so blatantly was because I used to be cowardly.

So, whether it was for revenge or just for the sake of never being bullied again, it was high time that I changed myself. During Valentine's Day, Louise visited me and brought me new clothes. She told me that she wanted to take me out for some fun. Truthfully, I preferred not to go, but I couldn't change her mind, so I had to change into the clothes she had bought for me. Once I was almost done, I heard someone knocking at the door, followed by Louise's cursing. "Shane Hayes? What the fuck do you think you're doing here? Did you come here to let me punch your ugly mug?" Right after she said that, I heard the sound of a face being punched. Hurriedly, I zipped up my dress and walked out. It was then that I saw Shane, bent over and turning to one side, motionless. Louise had studied Taekwondo, and it would not be surprising for her to deliver a powerful blow. "That punch was for Eve, Shane. I'm telling you, I've trained my fist just so I could beat up scumbags like you." Shane finally got up, wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth and looked at me. time

"Eveline, it's disagreement."

to

settle

our

He was quite good at choosing a date, I must say. He had chosen to talk to me about our divorce during Valentine's

Day.

"Screw you, Shane! Just get the fuck out of here, and stay as far away as possible!

Louise growled.

Then, she pulled me away from Shane, and shoved the latter.

"Don't get in my way!"

It was then that she put her arm around my shoulders. "Come on, Eve! Let's go have some fun. We'll find some handsome men to play with. If you end up liking any of them, get a room and sleep with him! That scumbag won't be able to stop you anyway."

Naturally, I wasn't going to do what Louise had said, but her bold words had excited me, especially when I walked around the corner and saw the displeasure written all over Shane's face. I couldn't be happier.

Later on, Louise took me to a salon to get my hair done. I stared at myself in the mirror and saw that my medium-length hair had been waved. I looked quite fashionable

While staring at me in the mirror, Louise remarked, "Look at that! I knew you'd be beautiful with a little dressing up. Today, you're going to make all of those men stare at you."

She then took me to a bar named Blue Sky.

I seldom visited such places. The sound of the harsh music and flickering neon lights made me very uncomfortable.

With her arm around my shoulders, Louise passed through the danc<u>ing</u> crowd. From time to time, people would whistle at us.

"Try to be more open-minded, Eve," she said to me as we walked. "You can even do the same thing that asshole did to you! Have some fun. If you happen to like any man out here, go and flirt with him."

Awkwardly, I walked while looking around uneasily. Suddenly, I was stunned when I caught sight of a familiar face.

There were two women and three men sitting at a VIP booth nearby, and one of them was Derek