

Heartstring On Fire Chapter 81 - 90

Chapter 81

Jared asked, “Heard your film investment’s a bit short?”

Ivan raised an eyebrow

This movie is the first of its kind, a youth fantasy, with a bunch of fancy special effects. The production team is from Hollywood, so the costs are through the roof. But since there’s nothing like this in our country yet, most investors are sitting on the fence. A few contracts are still in the works.

Ivan asked, “So, the Tim Group is thinking of dipping its toes in the film business?”

“50 million”

Ivan didn’t bat an eyelid. “There’s no such thing as a free lunch, especially when it comes to you, Jared What’s the catch?”

“Firstly, once Agnes joins the crew, I want daily updates on her schedule Secondly, use a body double for all the scenes I just mentioned. Those are my terms.”

Ivan, anticipating this, chuckled, “You’re really hung up on this little wife of yours. For the sake of money, I’ll agree. But Jared, aren’t you afraid she’ll resent your overbearing control? Girls her age tend to have a rebellious streak.”

Jared indeed had headaches over this

Lately, Agnes had been indeed... quite rebellious.

Everything had to be a showdown with him. He forbade her to join the entertainment industry, and she threatened him with divorce.

The mere thought of Agnes announcing her desire for a divorce made Jared’s blood boil.

Jared clearly remembered his first reaction was panic. In his 27 years, Jared had never felt like this, like he’d lost control.

Jared's brows furrowed. He stood up, "Our marital affairs are none of your business. And keep your distance from her."

Ivan just laughed helplessly, "Jared, you don't even trust me now? You're on high alert, a man in love is truly terrifying."

It wasn't that he didn't trust Ivan, but he feared Agnes would be led astray.

Agnes had finished her final exams and was now on holiday.

In the afternoon, Laura called her to come home for dinner. Agnes agreed.

Rather than return to her cold home, Agnes preferred not to face Jared

For the next two days, Agnes planned to stay home studying her script. She was scheduled to start filming in two days.

At dinner, Preston said, "Agnes, Beatrice has finished her exams and you're on holiday. We're all free as birds, so I'm thinking we can take a trip to the Maldives. How does that sound?"

Agnes had known about this for a while because Beatrice had mentioned it before.

They'd often go on trips over the years, but they'd always make a token invitation to Agnes. Then wait for Agnes to refuse. Then they'd go off on their guilt-free holidays. Agnes used to get upset, but she was used to it now. Without looking up. Agnes said, "I'll be pretty busy this summer. You guys go have fun."

Preston sighed. "Why is it that every time we plan a trip, you're always tied up?"

Laura chimed in. "She's grown up, and has her own things to do. Let's not get in her way."

But then, to their surprise, Beatrice also said, "I can't go this summer either. I'll be busy too."

Preston asked, "Busy with what? You've finished your exams. What else could you possibly have to do?"

Beatrice shot a glance at Agnes, “I have news. I’m joining the cast of ‘The Magical Romance of Cinderella’. I got the part through an audition, and I’m going to join the crew in two days.”

Agnes, who had been eating, paused at Beatrice’s announcement.

Chapter 82

Preston asked, “How come I didn’t hear a peep about you sneaking off for an audition? This is a production from Starlight International Group and Century Entertainment, why didn’t you give me a heads up?”

Beatrice replied in a cutesy tone. “I know our family invested in this production too, but I didn’t want to ride on favors. You know I dream of breaking into the entertainment industry, but I don’t want people to think I got in through family connections”

Preston’s face turned serious.

Laura gently added, “Let the kid find her own way. There’s nothing wrong with the entertainment industry. Besides, Beatrice auditioned on her own, which shows her ambition. It’s rare for her to be this passionate about something”

Preston asked, “What role are you playing? Starlight International Group is only involved in name for this production, mainly to get closer to Ivan. I haven’t been paying much attention to it.”

Beatrice replied proudly. “I’m the fourth lead female, with a total of 40 scenes.”

Preston said, “It’s impressive that you got the fourth lead role in your first gig, based on your own merits. Since you want to get into the entertainment industry, work hard. I’ll fully support you to become a top-tier actress.”

“Thanks, Dad,” Beatrice answered with a smile.

Seeing Agnes lack of reaction, Beatrice turned to her and said, “Speaking of, Agnes, what are your plans for the summer? Are you going to spend all your time in the library again? Don’t let reading turn you into a lone wolf. You should get out more at your age.”

“How could you say that to Agnes, Laura chided.

Beatrice replied, “I’m just stating facts. Doesn’t she spend every summer in the library? But hey, the shooting location is at Lakeside College, Agnes. We’ll probably be seeing each other a lot.”

Agnes glanced at Beatrice, responding indifferently. “Yes, we probably will.”

Having finished her meal, Agnes put down her utensils, “I’m done eating. You guys enjoy your meal. I’m heading back to my room”

As she left, she heard Beatrice complaining, “Dad, I bet Agnes is jealous that I got the part. You know, she snuck off to audition too, and I just happened to run into her

Agnes ignored her and returned to her room.

She pulled out a stack of scripts from her bag.

In her mind, Agnes couldn’t believe that Beatrice was also part of this drama. This could be troublesome.

Agnes could already imagine Beatrice’s reaction when she found out that Agnes was the lead. Just thinking about it gave her a headache.

But Agnes had no time for second thoughts Once a decision was made, there was no turning back.

Agnes stayed at home for two days.

Although Beatrice sometimes came to nag her and show off her role, Agnes didn’t pay her any mind.

During these two days, Jared kept his routine of calling her every night.

Their relationship seemed to have returned to its normal state, yet there seemed to be an invisible barrier between them.

After each phone call, Agnes would often zone out for a while.

On her first day at the new job, Ivan contacted her and asked her to come to Century Entertainment.

Thinking it was something important, Agnes went to the Century Building early in the morning. Upon seeing Ivan, Agnes asked, “Aren’t we going to the set today?”

There was a launch ceremony for the new drama at three in the afternoon, and Agnes needed to be there early.

Ivan replied, “No rush I’ll go with you to pick someone up later. We’ll have lunch together so you two can get to know each other before heading to the set.”

Agnes was confused, “Who are we picking up?”

Who could this person be that the CEO of Century Entertainment would personally pick them up?

Ivan enjoyed the mystery. “The lead male in this drama, your future work partner for the next three months. You’ll find out who it is.”

Agnes was curious.

So far, the lead roles had not been announced and had been kept strictly confidential, sparking a lot of speculation and discussion.

Of course, this was a marketing tactic. The more mysterious, the more attention it would attract.

Agnes was also curious. She and Ava had previously guessed that the male lead was Century Entertainment’s star, Robin.

Now Agnes was even more convinced of this.

Chapter 83

At nine o’clock, Agnes and Ivan hit the road and headed to the airport.

On the way there, Agnes kept her trap shut, not trying to start a conversation. Ivan, on the other hand, was fishing for stuff to talk about, trying to break the ice.

Finally, Ivan kicked things off, “Agnes, Jared can be a bit of a handful, huh?”

Agnes was taken aback, but not because of the question Ivan brought up. She was surprised because Ivan’s “Agnes” came out so naturally, so affectionately, she wasn’t

used to it.

Ivan glanced at Agnes, like he'd read her mind. He laughed, "You better get used to me calling you that, I'm your manager now"

Agnes, who felt like Ivan had seen through her, blushed slightly and just replied with a simple "okay". Then she said, "He's actually great. Talented, gentle, and can cook. He's a bit of a clean freak, but overall, he's alright"

Agnes was telling the truth, she thought Jared was Mr. Perfect. Sometimes, his perfection made him seem out of her league.

Ivan just laughed, "That's because you don't know him well enough. He might seem perfect on the surface, but deep down, he's stingy, strict, arrogant, and possessive"

Agnes frowned, her voice sharp. "You're my husband's friend. It's not cool to say bad things behind his back.."

Agnes felt a little peeved

The fact that Jared would go for a drink with Ivan in the middle of the night showed they were as thick as thieves.

Ivan turned to look at Agnes, a smirk playing on his lips, "Husband..."

Agnes suddenly realized what she'd said. The word "husband" had slipped out before she even knew it

Ivan said, "Looks like you two made up. Last time Jared look you away, he looked pissed. I was worried there could have been some misunderstanding between you two But seeing you defend him like this, I'm relieved."

Agnes finally got it. Ivan had been badmouthing Jared on purpose just to test the waters about her relationship with Jared.

They arrived at the airport in no time.

As soon as Agnes and Ivan walked into the terminal, they saw a sea of people at the exit.

It was clear as day that they were a mob of crazed fans there to welcome their idol..

Just as Agnes was wondering which celeb was coming, the crowd started to go wild.

Screams were flying left and right.

“Justin, I love you!!”

The crazy screams mixed with crying filled the entire airport.

First, a ton of security guards formed two lines in the crowd, creating a path. And then, surrounded by a bunch of assistants, the one and only Justin walked out, worshipped by everyone.

Yes, that guy. The hottest A-list male star of the moment. The newly crowned king of film, the heartthrob of the entertainment industry – Justin!

Agnes impression of Justin still stuck to that grand event a year ago.

Every time she thought of that incident, she couldn't help but frown. Although Justin was the undisputed popularity king. Agnes was not a big fan of him.

Justin was wearing a white-grey linen shirt. Even though the color seemed a bit old-fashioned, he looked damn good in it.

To say Justin's face could “launch a thousand ships” was far from an exaggeration. Even the most handsome guys in the entertainment industry would feel inferior standing next to him.

Justin's fandom wasn't just girls, a ton of guys were also head over heels for his good looks. The most famous example was the billionaire's son, Kevin. He spent a fortune confessing his love to Justin on a giant screen in Times Square, which even made international news.

Agnes turned to Ivan and said, “Don't tell me we're picking up Justin.”

Chapter 84

Ivan's voice was calm, but his words dropped like a bomb “That's right, you must know him, he's your father's company's favorite star”

Justin was the backbone of Starlight International Group, so of course Agnes knew him. But Agnes had assumed that as the producer of this TV show, Ivan would choose a star from Century Entertainment to be the leading actor.

So, she had guessed that the male lead would possibly be Robin or Orlando.

However, Agnes forgot that from the very start, Ivan had mentioned that the show was a joint investment between Century and Starlight.

Therefore, it wasn't surprising for Starlight's top star to be the lead actor in the show

But... why did it have to be him.

Justin was already walking over, surrounded by fans.

With so many fans, screams and shouts were everywhere. Before he could even say hi, Ivan ordered, "Let's go, we'll talk in the car?"

The fact that Ivan personally picked up Justin, made Agnes think, Justin was a big deal.

So, when getting in the car, Agnes deliberately left the front passenger seat empty, and went to sit in the back.

However, when Justin arrived, he didn't take the front seat. Instead, he went straight to the back and sat next to Agnes.

"Ivan, drive. I purposely delayed my trip by a day, but they've been waiting here all day and night. The young folks these days are way too fanatical about their idols. If I ever have a kid who's that crazy about chasing stars, I swear I'll break his legs."

Agnes was speechless. Who talked about their fans like that?

Ivan had already started the car and they quickly left the airport.

Ivan said, "If it's your kid, they probably won't chase stars. I've already planned it out, they'll sign with the company as soon as they're born and start training at two years old. I guarantee they'll be more famous than you"

"You're such a businessman, never changing your profit-squeezing nature, even my child won't be spared. But you're right, my kid would definitely be the cream of the crop. after all, there's no one more handsome than me in the world."

After saying this, Justin pulled out a small mirror, checked his face, then blew a satisfied kiss to his reflection.

Agnes watched in discomfort. She already knew he was narcissistic but didn't expect it to be this bad. She also noticed that Ivan and Justin's conversation was casual, like they were old friends.

Agnes asked, "Do you guys know each other?"

Ivan said, "You might not know this, but when Justin debuted, he signed with Century Entertainment. Your father later poached him with a high price, but we're still friends."

Ah, so that was the story

Justin put away his mirror and formally looked at Agnes, "Agnes, do you remember me?"

Agnes said, "I do."

Justin asked, "How about my proposal you've been considering for so long, what's your decision?"

Agnes replied, "I believe I gave you a clear answer a year ago.

This time, Ivan seemed surprised, "Is there something special going on between you two?"

Agnes quickly replied, "Nothing special, he's just... a bit off"

Now Ivan was even more interested, "I want to know, what happened a year ago?"

Justin's voice was careless, with a hint of laziness. He brushed his hair back from his forehead and said casually, "Nothing much, I proposed to her a year ago, but she turned me down."

Chapter 85

Agnes couldn't believe Justin just blurted out the whole thing.

A year ago, Agnes met Justin for the first time at a grand gala. She thought he was pretty awesome. But she didn't expect his first words to her would be. "Hey girl, wanna marry me?"

Agnes was taken aback. She thought, the guy was surely handsome but he must have been off his rocker.

They didn't know each other, had no connections, and it was the first time Agnes had ever seen him.

She turned him down on the spot.

She never told anyone about this, not even her then boyfriend Elton.

Ivan, however, was not too surprised. He smirked, "Well, here's a shocker. You might be the only one who turned down a proposal from Justin"

Hearing Ivan say this, Justin seemed a bit miffed. "She broke my heart big time. It's been a year and the wound is still fresh."

Agnes was speechless.

Justin added, "Hey, who'd have thought we'd have such a connection? Now that we have a chance to interact more, you're bound to fall for me."

Agnes replied coldly. "No chance. I'm not into guys who are prettier than girls."

Upon hearing this, Justin seemed quite pleased. He reached out to pinch Agnes' cheek, "Is that a compliment? The woman that I'm gonna marry sure has a unique way of praising people"

Ivan chimed in, "Dream on. You're out of the race."

"Why?"

"She's married," Ivan calmly stated

Upon hearing this, Justin's face changed, clutching his chest in disbelief, "Is that for real?"

Agnes didn't want anyone to know she was married, but she didn't mind Ivan spilling the beans.

So she admitted, “Yes, it’s true.”

Justin suddenly looked heartbroken, “How could you leave me for another man?”

Agnes was speechless. This guy really deserved his Best Actor title. He quickly slipped into character, his portrayal of sorrow was quite convincing

But when did she ever leave him? They were never together. They were practically strangers.

Agnes was speechless as she watched him dramatically squeeze out a tear.

What a drama queen!

Ivan said, “Alright, stop messing with her.”

Justin immediately straightened up proudly like a peacock, elegantly took out a small mirror and wiped away his tears, “Even if she’s married, no biggie. I can still steal her away After all, I’m this handsome. I don’t believe anyone can resist me, twice.”

Agnes was speechless.

After meeting Justin, she went to The Simon’s Both the director and the scriptwriter were present.

Justin was very familiar with these people. The atmosphere was as relaxed as old friends hanging out.

The official induction of the crew started in the afternoon, and the opening ceremony was scheduled for three o’clock.

When Beatrice saw Agnes appearing with the director and the producer, her astonishment was beyond words.

Chapter 86

After confirming over and over again that Agnes would be the leading lady in “the Magical Romance of Cinderella“, Beatrice’s face turned sour as hell

When the kick-off ceremony ended, the crew led everyone on a tour of the shooting site.

When Agnes was alone in the lounge, Beatrice seized the opportunity to walk over and said, “Agnes, did you sleep with the director or get into some shady business with some big-shot investor? I can’t believe you could stoop so low. You’re despicable.”

Agnes retorted, ‘Beatrice, can you not be such a venomous snake? You’re still young, don’t always have the word ‘despicable‘ on the tip of your tongue’”

“Agnes, you’re not one to give me a lecture. How else could you have landed the lead role if not for some underhanded tactics?”

Agnes replied. “Same as you, I got it through auditions”

“You think I’d buy that? You’re not even from an acting background. Besides your body, what else could you possibly offer?”

Agnes responded coldly. “If you think I’ve had an illicit affair with the director, go ahead and blow the whistle, as long as you have proof.”

Beatrice snorted. “You think I’m stupid? If I expose the director, where does that leave my acting career? But Agnes, I really admire you, even Director Zoe’s old age doesn’t faze you Dad would blow a fuse if he knew.”

“Director Zoe, you’re here.” Agnes stood up straight, looking behind Beatrice.

Beatrice stiffened, her face turned ashen. She turned her head toward the door, but there was no one there

Beatrice was furious. She turned back to see a smirk on Agnes’ face, “Agnes, you tricked me.”

“What, you were hoping he was really here?”

Beatrice was quivering with rage

Agnes said calmly. “Don’t talk behind people’s backs. If you have the guts, say it to their faces. That’s my advice to you as your elder sister.”

With that, Agnes left the lounge.

Beatrice was fuming. Every time she argued with Agnes, she never seemed to come out on top. Agnes seemed gentle, but she was cunning deep down.

Just a few days ago at home, she didn't say anything when Beatrice announced she got the fourth female lead, even though Beatrice was the lead.

Was Agnes mocking her then? Was she just playing her for a fool?

Thinking of this, Beatrice was gnashing her teeth.

Agnes, don't get cocky. How long you can stay as the lead is still up in the air. We will see...

After leaving Beatrice, Agnes ran into Ava

Tomorrow was the official start of shooting today everyone was excitedly touring the site.

Upon seeing Agnes, Ava walked over. "Agnes, we're bunking together. I was about to put away my luggage, wanna join?"

Agnes replied, "Sure, why not."

Agnes moved all her stuff from Kerri's dorm into their new one.

By the time they finished, it was already 5 PM.

Though the dorm was in the school's dormitory area, it obviously had a late renovation, and the environment was refreshing and elegant

The dorm had bunk beds, Ava volunteered for the top bunk, leaving Agnes with the bottom bunk.

After tidying up, the two sat on the bed and started to chat.

Ava said, "I can't believe the Starlight International Group star is Justin. You know how fast my heart was beating when I saw him today? He's so handsome. I can't even look him in the eye, I'm afraid I might faint."

Agnes, munching on her chips, said, "Aren't you exaggerating a bit? He can't be that good-looking"

Ava retorted, “Have you seen anyone more handsome than Justin?”

Without hesitation, Agnes replied, “Of course.”

The first face that popped into Agnes’ mind was Jared’s.

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Chapter 87

Jared and Justin were two completely different breeds.

Justin had a pretty face that blurred the line between genders, with a hint of allure hidden in his eyes. If he lived in ancient times, he’d be the kind of pretty boy that women would swoon over

But Jared was a different story Jared’s face had a masculine edge and lacked those feminine touches, his looks were just right.

He was the guy who had perfect features, and when put together, he was simply stunning His every move made your heart race

All this time, Agnes seldom looked at Jared deeply because a single glance was enough to get her hooked.

Justin couldn't hold a candle to a man like Jared

“So, who are you talking about?” Ava asked

Agnes stammered. She couldn't utter Jared's name.

Ava laughed, “See, you can't even say it. There's simply no man handsomer than Justin in this world, Agnes, I'm so jealous of you. You get to be his love interest in the show.”

Agnes replied. “Don't you have plenty of scenes with him too? I remember there's even a kissing scene.”

Ava seemed excited at the mention of this.

Her character was Angelina, the rich girl and childhood sweetheart of the male lead, Samie.

Although her character wasn't exactly likable, she had plenty of romantic scenes with Samie, even a forceful kissing scene.

The thought of shooting a kissing scene with Justin got Ava all hyped up.

After a while, someone from the crew knocked on the door, saying that the director was taking the investors to dinner. They'd heard that the crew had managed to secure a 50 million investment in one go, solving their financial issues.

They wondered who the rich benefactor was

Agnes said, “Why would we go to a dinner hosted by the director for the bigwigs?”;

Ava chimed in, “It's pretty standard. You're new to the industry. You'll get used to it. A lot of investors are just after the young stars, but as long as we keep our noses clean,

we're good. Come on, remember to drink lightly tonight, and not drinking at all definitely won't do."

The dinner was at a platinum suite in a six-star hotel.

Beatrice was there too, dressed to the nines. If you hadn't known, you'd think she was going to some grand gala.

Agnes, on the other hand, was dressed casually, looking like a student.

When Agnes and the others arrived, the director and his group were already there. And the man sitting next to the director, chatting with him, was none other than Jared.

Agnes was stunned when she saw him.

Ava nudged Agnes, "I just heard the CEO of the Tim Group is the big shot who invested in this show. Look, normally everyone dodges these social events if they can, but today everyone's all dolled up, there's gonna be some drama tonight, everyone wants to marry him. Even if they don't get far, a scandal with him would skyrocket their value in the showbiz."

Agnes looked around

Sure enough, all eyes, intentionally or not, were on Jared. The girls were practically shooting lasers from their eyes.

Suddenly, Agnes felt like Jared was prey being targeted by a pack of hunters.

At that moment, Justin spotted Agnes, and quickly waved her over, "Agnes, come over here, sit next to me."

Jared slowly lifted his head at that moment.

His gaze fell on Agnes. For some reason, Agnes felt a hint of coldness in his gaze.

Chapter 88

Agnes' survival instinct told her that if she really sat next to Justin, she would be in for a hot mess.

So, she chose a spot as far away from Justin as possible

Justin grumbled from the side, "Agnes, my girl, you've got some sass, but I kinda dig that about you"

Agnes rolled her eyes at Justin

What does he mean by "my girl"? He needed to watch his mouth in such situations.

But everyone in the entertainment industry knew Justin's character, he loved to flirt with the female actresses. In the industry, people even used Justin's flirting as a bragging

point

They got pretty used to it. After all, Agnes was indeed Justin's girl in the drama.

Agnes sneaked a peek at Jared, who had already turned around to chat with Ivan. He didn't seem to react much.

Agnes let out a sigh of relief.

Soon, everyone arrived, and the waiter began to serve the dishes.

Director Zoe said a few words of thanks to Jared, basically appreciating his timely help

He then raised his glass and said, "Let's toast to Mr. Whitfield, we will surely do our best to make great work in return"

Everyone raised their glasses. The dinner then officially started.

Agnes noticed that almost no one was really eating. Most of them were busy toasting and drinking.

The director, Ivan, Justin, and of course, the one who got the most toasts was Jared. There was a constant flow of women by his side, as one left another came.

This had been going on for several rounds already And Agnes noticed Jared had already downed 12 glasses.

Didn't he know how to say no? Agnes thought, a little annoyed.

And each woman was trying to stick around him a bit longer.

Beatrice was already on her third round of toasting. She walked up to Jared, cheeks flushed, looking all shy. "I'd love to toast you again, I didn't get to introduce myself properly earlier, I'm Preston and Laura's daughter, Beatrice. I attended Tim's birthday party before, do you remember me?"

Jared responded with a flat, "Hello Ms. Beatrice, but I don't quite remember."

Beatrice was overjoyed inside, she didn't leave a good impression on Jared at the party before. Instead, it was Agnes who stole the show.

Just thinking about it made Beatrice hate Agnes.

But Jared not remembering, was even better.

Beatrice downed her glass of red wine. As she put down the glass, she pretended to sway a bit, then leaned towards Jared. But it was clear to everyone, Beatrice wasn't drunk. This kind of trick was easy to spot.

However, before she could lean on Jared, he had already stood up and stepped back. His response was quick and cool, even his retreat had a charming vibe.

Beatrice missed her mark and almost fell on the table.

Soft laughter was heard from the other women at the table.

Feeling embarrassed, Beatrice started to get angry.

Jared began to speak, 'Ms. Beatrice might've had a bit too much to drink, she should probably go take a break.'

Take a break? What a joke! How could she leave early in such a setting?

Beatrice forced a smile, “Thank you for your concern, Mr. Whitfield. I just need a little rest”

After saying that, Beatrice went back to her seat, her fingers tightly gripping the edge of the glass, as if she wanted to crush it.

At this moment, Ivan suddenly said calmly, “Agnes, I recall you not having toasted Mr. Whitfield yet, why don’t you give Mr. Whitfield a toast as well?”

Chapter 89

Agnes just wanted to wolf down her grub in peace. She was just hoping to fly under the radar.

Then she glanced up at Ivan, the corners of his mouth upturned in a slight smirk, a glint of mischief in his eyes.

I was clear as day he was waiting for the fireworks to start. So, this was his game.

With one line, Ivan had managed to throw Agnes into the spotlight.

Agnes was stuck She had no choice but to grab her glass, get up, and head over to Jared.

She sidled up to Jared and said, “Mr. Whitfield, this one’s for you.”

But before Agnes could finish her sentence, Jared just sat there, not batting an eyelid. He was always the picture of politeness when someone proposed a toast.

So why was he playing hardball when it was Agnes raising her glass?

Ivan was standing nearby, his eyes filled with amusement

Everyone else seemed taken aback.

But when Beatrice saw Jared treating Agnes like this, she was tickled pink.

Agnes was steamed. Under these circumstances, couldn’t he just go with the flow and act normally?

Agnes didn’t give a hoot anymore. She had already made the toast, whether he drank it was his problem.

Agnes flat out said, “I’ve done my part, Mr. Whitfield. The ball’s in your court now.”

After saying that, Agnes gulped down the wine in her glass. The moment the glass touched her lips, it slipped from her hand.

Jared had snatched the wine glass from her. He said coolly, “You have a shoot tomorrow, better not drink alcohol. Have a soft drink instead.”

Jared’s words left everyone gobsmacked. So... was Mr. Whitfield looking out for Agnes? There were many actresses who toasted earlier, and they all had work the next day.

Mr. Whitfield didn’t seem to be looking out for them.

Agnes was flabbergasted. This guy was a real pain in the neck. Was he trying to make everyone figure out their relationship?

Seeing this, Beatrice was green with envy Jared’s attitude towards Agnes was indeed different, just like at Tim’s birthday bash. Beatrice started to suspect that there was some hush–hush between these two.

Left with no choice, Agnes grabbed a soft drink and toasted Jared again.

Jared downed his drink, and Agnes returned to her seat.

Looking around, Agnes noticed an array of mixed emotions on everyone’s faces envy, jealousy, but mostly confusion, but Agnes didn’t have the energy to deal with them.

This was just a minor hiccup. Everyone quickly forgot about it as the actresses continued to propose toasts to Jared, each more creative than the last.

Agnes just watched from the sidelines. She watched as Jared downed one drink after another

The director got plastered, and Ivan had Justin take him home before the party ended. But not one actress had left.

In the end, it was Ivan who called it a night. When the important person spoke, everyone else had to pack up and leave, no matter how reluctant.

Ava said to Agnes, “Agnes, we have to head out. We have an early start tomorrow, we need to get some shut-eye. If we don’t, we’ll wake up with puffy faces and that won’t look good on camera”

Agnes nodded, but she was still worried about Jared.

Jared was slumped over the table, looking worse for wear.

As Agnes was leaving the hotel, she felt torn.

The cab had already pulled up at the hotel entrance. Suddenly, she said to Ava, “You go on ahead. I just remembered I left something in the room. I need to go back and get it.”

Already halfway into the cab, Ava had no choice but to say, “Alright, but hurry up. I’ll wait for you back at the dorm.”

Agnes decided to go back. When she walked into the room again, sure enough, Jared was still there.

Chapter 90

Only Jared and Ivan were left in the private room

Jared was sprawled on the table Ivan sat next to Jared, looking relaxed, and casually picked up a copy of World Economy from the bookshelf behind him.

Upon hearing noise at the door, he looked up and said. “Finally, you’re back.”

Agnes asked in surprise. “How did you know I’d come back?”

Judging from Ivan’s demeanor, he was clearly wailing for someone. Could it be her?

Ivan stood up, put the book back on the shelf, and said, “The way you kept looking back when you left, I knew you’d come back. I’ve handed your husband over to you, I need to go now”

Wait was she just supposed to take it from here?

Had he no intention of helping?

How was she supposed to get a drunk man home all by herself?

But Ivan didn't seem to have any intention of sticking around. Before leaving, he lightly patted Jared on the shoulder as if to say, 'Buddy, I've done all I can.'

At this moment, Agnes didn't notice Jared's slightly open eyes, which seemed to say, "Just go!*

Ivan left.

His driver was waiting outside the hotel. When Ivan got into the car, the driver Moss asked in confusion, "Where's Mr. Whitfield? Why didn't he come out with you?"

It was Moss who had driven them both here.

Ivan laughed and said, "He might spend the night here."

As Moss started the car, he asked in confusion, "Is Mr. Whitfield drunk?"

Ivan responded, "No, he can hold his liquor!"

In the private room.

Agnes was at a loss. How was she supposed to get home?

If she and Jared appeared in public together, she would definitely be the headline news tomorrow.

The news about Agnes being the leading lady in the movie was still under wraps.

Any rumors about her and Jared, once news of the lead actress broke, would definitely bring a lot of negative press to the crew.

Out of desperation, Agnes checked into a room downstairs.

It took quite an effort to get Jared into the room. He was really drunk, leaning on Agnes' shoulder the whole way, and he was heavy

Fortunately, Agnes had been practicing Taekwondo since she was a kid, so she was pretty strong.

Once in the room, Agnes plopped Jared onto the bed. Exhausted, Agnes felt like she had just lifted a mountain off her shoulders.

She collapsed onto the bed, and lay flat, panting heavily.

After a short rest, just as she was about to get up. Jared rolled over, half his body pressing down on her. His move was smooth, and he pulled Agnes into his arms with one hand resting on her chest

Just as Agnes was about to struggle free. She heard Jared mumble in confusion, “Agnes, I miss you so much.”

Agnes felt like she’d been struck by lightning.

Jared’s tone was whiny, like a child’s. She had never seen this side of him before. It was as if he had become a different person.

Agnes was stunned for a moment, but a smile gradually appeared on her face.

She was filled with anticipation

In the beginning, she was very angry with Jared because he had accepted toasts from many girls that night.

However, his unintentional confession gradually cooled her anger.

Jared was still mumbling. “I don’t feel so good”

Agnes quickly said, “Hold on, I’ll get you some water.”

Just as she was about to get up, Jared grabbed her arm, “I don’t want water.”

Agnes patiently explained, “You’ll feel better after drinking some water

Jared stubbornly insisted, like a moody child, “No, I want to take a bath”