

I Married a Beautiful Boss After the Breakup Chapter 11 - 20

Chapter 11

The hospital director, Dr. Gray, ordered his staff to transfer Mr. Johnson to the private ward.

David scratched his head as he watched Eric and his family leave the ward. “What the hell is going on? Is he even eligible for transfer to the private ward?”

Apart from the limited availability of rooms, the private wards were exclusively reserved for the big shots in Salt City. Thus, it made no sense that the Johnsons were able to secure a private ward.

“What’s so great about the private ward?” said Jasmine. “That’s not going to stop you from getting revenge on Eric.”

“You understand sh*t!” David glared at Jasmine. “The private wards are only reserved for the city’s big shots. I’m nothing but an ant before them! I just can’t understand how that punk managed to access the private wards!” David felt frightened the more he thought about it.

He knew Eric pretty well after so many years. Based on Eric’s character, he would never retaliate unless someone with a powerful background supported him.

“He’s nothing but a loser,” said Jasmine. “I’ve spent nearly a decade with him. His parents are from the countryside, and his mother is sick. His mother’s medication expenses cost around \$450 a month. He would have cured his mother by now if he had the financial capability to do so. His mother wouldn’t have knelt at you and Dr. Anderson if he was that capable!”

“That makes sense...” David nodded in agreement.

He knew comeback stories only existed in novels. Furthermore, anyone could make a comeback, but not Eric. After the incident, David was extra cautious and stopped harassing Eric. He wanted to understand Eric's situation.

Eric was shocked at how extravagant the private ward was. The difference was like day and night. Apart from a sick bed, the private ward was fully equipped with furnishings and amenities.

Naturally, Mrs. Johnson felt uneasy seeing how extravagant the private ward was.

"Eric, this ward costs a fortune, right?" Mrs. Johnson did not even dare sit, afraid she might dirty the expensive sofa set.

Eric hesitated upon hearing his mother's words. He did not know exactly how much the private ward cost. Needless to say, it would be expensive.

Dr. Gray smiled and said, "Madam, don't worry about it. You can stay here until Mr. Johnson has fully recovered and is discharged. Money is not an issue!"

Based on the Johnsons' reaction, Dr. Gray realized they were fully unaware of the arrangements the Williams had made. He couldn't care less about the reason behind this secrecy—as the hospital director, it was his priority to take good care of the Johnsons.

At the same time, Eric received a message from Andy. He had managed to sneak into David's office and had taken a picture of the erotic messages between David and Jasmine while David was away.

David had kept the chat records on his computer because of his perverted hobby. He was hooked on the thrill of messing with his employee's girlfriend.

Eric clenched his fists tightly. If what the man with the slick hair, Brook, had said was true, the chat record would be David's downfall. However, Eric had no idea if David's wife could handle him. Despite this, with the chat record in his hands, he had the confidence to retaliate against David if he ever showed up again.

Eric was lost in his thoughts when his phone rang. "Elly?"

"Eric, where are you and our parents? Why is the ward empty?" Elly was worried.

Eric quickly explained their situation and disclosed their new whereabouts.

"Why are we transferred there!?" Elly was shocked.

It would be impossible for them to afford such an extravagant ward when they could barely come up with \$15,000.

Eric smiled wryly and said, "Elly, I'll try to find out what's going on when I return to the house in the evening."

He had told Elly everything about how he had come up with the \$15,000 and his fake marriage with Sylvia.

"Eric, I think there's something fishy with your wife." Elly's sixth sense was triggered even though she had not met Sylvia.

Eric scratched his head and said, "It seems like she's earning above average working in the middle management team under Williams Corp."

Eric speculated whether Sylvia might be a distant relative of the Williams family in Salt City, considering their shared family name.

Elly nodded, feeling relieved. Even though her sister-in-law never showed up, she was contributing to the family in her own way. On the other hand, Elly's husband, Craig Huntsman, had not shown up after their father was hospitalized. Not only that, but he also hadn't returned home the previous night and was unreachable. He had only sent her a message at midnight, explaining that he needed to stay back in the office to pull an all-nighter.

Elly approached Mrs. Johnson and said, "Mom, Craig has been busy for the last two days. I'll call him to pay you and Dad a visit when he's done with work."

Despite knowing Craig looked down on her parents, Elly still made great efforts to maintain his image.

"Work is more important. It's not easy for him to be the only breadwinner in the house. Elly, you should be considerate of his situation," said Mrs. Johnson.

"I will, Mom," Elly said with a slightly bitter expression, adding, "Mom, get some rest. Eric and I will look after Dad. You haven't had a proper rest for the past two days."

Mrs. Johnson did not decline her children's help. She had been on the edge since Mr. Johnson got into an accident. She could finally get some rest after Mr. Johnson was transferred to the private ward. Mrs. Johnson fell asleep shortly after she got into bed.

Elly approached Eric and said in a low voice, "Eric, since you've broken up with Jasmine and even got married, you should treat your wife well. Love and relationships can be cultivated over time, after all."

Eric wore a bitter expression upon hearing Elly's words.

Sylvia was from a different league—the only thing they shared in common was the fact that they were former classmates during high school. Apart from that, they had no common interests, so how were they supposed to form a relationship?

Sylvia had always been cold and aloof, so it was already difficult for him to get acquainted with her, let alone cultivate a relationship.

Mrs. Johnson was full of spirit after a much-needed rest. Elly had to pick the children up in the afternoon, so Mrs. Johnson told her to return home and rest. She could take care of Mr. Johnson on her own. At the same time, she reminded Eric to work hard and repay the debts as quickly as possible.

Eric felt the need to return home after his father's situation was fully resolved. He couldn't help but speculate that Sylvia must have made arrangements with the hospital to transfer his father to the private ward.

After getting some daily necessities and cooking ingredients, Eric returned to the house in the Rosewood Estate. Sylvia was on the sofa, reading a book. When he entered the house, she glanced at Eric but did not speak to him.

Eric expressed his gratitude. "Thank you for the hospital arrangement."

He would have been at his wits end dealing with David and Dr. Anderson alone if Sylvia had not intervened. Eric did not know how to return the favor after Sylvia had saved him twice.

"I'll whip up some dishes in the kitchen now," Eric said, seeing Sylvia not responding to him.

After Eric disappeared into the kitchen, Sylvia grabbed her phone and sent a message to him.

Sylvia: [You don't have to cook for me.]

Chapter 12

Eric spent over an hour in the kitchen and made steaks, mac 'n' cheese, and fruit salad.

"Sylvia, dinner is ready," Eric called out.

Sylvia limped to the kitchen and furrowed her brow when she saw the dishes.

"What's wrong?" asked Eric.

Sylvia rolled her eyes at Eric and replied, "It's high in fat! Didn't you complain that I was heavy yesterday? Are you trying to make me gain more weight?"

Eric found himself at a loss for words, never expecting that Sylvia would stubbornly cling to his words from the previous night.

"I was just kidding," Eric said with a sheepish smile. He then ignored Sylvia as he picked up his cutlery and began devouring his meal.

Sylvia took a few bites of the fruit salad and then scooped a spoonful of mac 'n' cheese into her mouth, observing Eric as he enjoyed his meal. She had assumed it would be greasy, but it was surprisingly delicious. Sylvia realized just how hungry she was, especially since the kitchen was empty and she didn't feel like hiring a housekeeper.

Eric was pleased with his cooking skills, which had improved significantly over time. On his off days, he would often cook in his rented space as a way to save money. He had successfully created a delicious and satisfying dinner tonight.

The dishes were so good that Sylvia unconsciously finished her entire plate of food

finished her plate of food unknowingly. When she finally noticed she had downed every morsel of food, her face flushed with embarrassment.

"I-I'll rest in the living room," said Sylvia.

Eric nodded, not noticing her expression. He gathered the plates and utensils to the sink and washed them.

Sylvia limped back to the sofa, feeling embarrassed as she thought about how much she had eaten.

‘Damnit!’ She kicked the coffee table in frustration, completely forgetting her injuries.

“Ouch!” She grimaced in pain, cursing Eric inwardly.

Eric was done doing the dishes and went into the living room.

“How are your ankles? They seem to be better today,” said Eric.

He thought it should not be a problem anymore since Sylvia was able to walk to the kitchen by herself. Eric would not offer help unless Sylvia requested it. He had to maintain a distance from her, or else it would be a violation of their marriage agreement.

“They are much better now,” replied Sylvia.

At the same time, she pulled out a bank card and put it in front of Eric. “We will be living under one roof for the next three years. Use this card for our daily household expenses. Just give me a heads-up if there is a huge transaction.” She then took out a set of keys. “There’s a BMW in the garage. Get a driving license as quickly as possible if you haven’t gotten your license yet. My family is informed that we’re married, so you need to have your own car.”

Sylvia knew her brothers well. They might be secretly monitoring her after learning that she was married. She then pointed toward the balcony and said, “Please go and pull the curtains for me.”

Seeing the curtains being drawn, Brook scratched his head and wondered, “Have I been discovered?”

Eric politely declined her offer, saying, “That’s not necessary. I still have a couple hundred bucks saved up, which should be enough to cover our daily expenses. As you mentioned, we’ll be living together for three years, so I can’t just rely on you for everything.”

Sylvia frowned. “How is it enough to survive on a few hundred bucks?”

Her words hit hard.

Eric had spent close to \$100 solely on ingredients and daily necessities in the afternoon. When he was about to nod his head, Sylvia took back the bank card and car keys.

“Suit yourself. You should be able to take care of yourself since you’re a full-grown man,” said Sylvia.

Eric was rendered speechless. He regretted letting his ego get the better of him.

Nothing else happened for the rest of the night. Eric was curious to know where Sylvia’s family was, but he dismissed his thoughts of bringing it up after reminding himself of the marriage agreement.

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Eric was disrupted by an early morning phone call from his ex-girlfriend, Jasmine. Irritated, he quickly glanced at his phone and decided to block her number, seeking peace and quiet.

Soon after, he received a message from Andy asking him if he would come to the office that day. With David having fired him abruptly, Eric knew he was entitled to proper compensation from the company. Considering his current financial situation, he felt it was only fair to demand what he rightfully deserved from David. Moreover, with proof of David’s infidelity in his hands, Eric had no reason to be afraid of him.

Eric jumped out of bed and freshened up. He made bacon and eggs for breakfast and a pot of coffee. Sylvia was still sleeping, so he reserved a portion for her on the dining table before leaving the house.

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Andy greeted Eric with a broad smile when he arrived at the office. He displayed genuine sympathy for Eric’s situation and stood by him when the rest of the employees shunned Eric like the plague after learning of the animosity between Eric and David. Everyone in the company knew that Eric had punched David in the face after finding out David had been messing with his girlfriend. They never expected Eric would show up in the company after what happened.

“What are your plans for the future?” asked Andy.

He had assumed that Eric would be completely devastated by his father's accident and Jasmine's betrayal, which happened at the same time. Yet, Eric turned out to be much stronger than he thought. Nonetheless, it would be impossible for Eric to continue working for David.

"My father is still in the hospital, so his recovery is my priority for now. David must compensate me for firing me, which should be enough to sustain me for a while," replied Eric.

Eric did not have any immediate plans. His father's recovery was his priority before he could consider anything else.

Andy nodded and said, "I'll pay your father a visit later in the day. I'm done working my b*tt off for David. I should slack whenever I can."

Eric and Andy did not plan to confront David with proof of his infidelity unless it was necessary. They were only concerned about whether David's wife could handle him.

The HR manager, Richard Thompson, walked over while Eric and Andy were in the middle of a conversation.

Richard forcefully handed a document to Eric and said indifferently, "Eric, you should never show up anymore since David fired you."

Eric skimmed through the termination notice, looked at Richard, and asked, "What about my compensation? When an employee is unjustly terminated, they are entitled to receive compensation from the company!"

Richard laughed. "How dare you even bring this up? You assaulted David, and you're asking for compensation? That's ridiculous!"

Eric stood up. "I'll take this matter to David."

Richard sneered, thinking, 'David will never compensate Eric after what the latter did.'

Eric did not expect to see Jasmine in David's office as well. However, at least she was not sitting on David's lap today when he entered his office.

When David saw Eric, he rose to his feet, grinning from ear to ear. "Eric, you're here."

Jasmine also stood up and seemed pleased to see him.

Their sudden change of attitude confused Eric. It made him wary, as he felt something was amiss.

Chapter 13

“Jasmine, don’t just stand there! Get Eric a chair!” shouted David.

“It’s unnecessary,” said Eric, “David, I want my compensation.”

“Of course! The company’s decision to terminate your employment is indeed a mistake on our part. I apologize for the matter. I assume you won’t be staying with us any longer. To make it up for you, the company will compensate you a total of \$65,000.”

David brought out stacks of hundred dollar bills, put them in front of Eric, and said, “These are all yours.”

Eric was shocked and confused. It seemed impossible for David to compensate him with such a large sum of \$65,000. Desperate for money, Eric considered the many things he could do with that amount. However, he knew that David wouldn’t let him take it easily, despite deserving it after the unjust firing. As Eric pondered his situation, an idea started to form.

However, before Eric could express it, David abruptly placed a sheet of paper in front of him and said, “Take a look at it and sign it if everything is alright.”

It was a compensation agreement, exactly what Eric needed to claim the compensation legally. According to the agreement, the company had agreed to compensate Eric a total of \$65,000 for terminating his employment.

After signing the agreement, Eric took out \$4,000 from the stack of bills and said, “I crushed your monitor, so this is to compensate you.”

He then put away the remaining money and left.

“Babe, why did you pay him such a huge amount of money?” Jasmine couldn’t understand why David would be willing to compensate Eric so generously, considering that Eric had punched him twice.

David smiled meaningfully and said, “Remember what I told you about the private ward yesterday? I suspect someone influential is supporting him.

“Jasmine, I want you to investigate it for me. Do whatever it takes to find out the truth. Didn’t you say that he has never had the chance to even touch you? So, it should be easy for you to seduce him with your beauty.”

“Babe! Why should I let that loser touch me? I only want you to touch me!” Jasmine said coquettishly.

David chuckled and playfully spanked Jasmine’s firm butt. “It’s a matter of principle for me. I can’t let those punches go unanswered. If you can uncover the truth, I’ll buy you a Porsche. And if you can recover the money he took, it’s all yours.”

The rewards Jasmine would receive excited her. She was an expert in the art of seduction, after all.

—

Eric did not expect David would give in so easily.

Andy was rather moved upon learning that Eric had received such a huge sum of money as compensation.

“Should I punch that *sshole and make him fire me as well?” asked Andy.

Eric rolled his eyes at Andy and patted him on the shoulder. “You will be in trouble if you do so.”

Andy chuckled mischievously.

Eric had kept a copy of the conversation record between David and Jasmine as a safeguard. If David ever tried to play dirty, Eric would use it against him and expose the truth to his wife.

Meanwhile, Andy continued to slack during work.

After conversing with Andy for a while, Eric left. He would no longer set foot in the company unless absolutely necessary.

While Eric was waiting for a taxi, Jasmine suddenly approached him in high heels and said, “Eric, wait for me!”

Eric felt disgusted upon hearing her voice. He did not even bother to take a look at her.

Jasmine went up to Eric and held on to his arm as if they were still a couple.

“What are you doing, Jasmine!?” Eric quickly shook her off, feeling disgusted.

“Eric! I’m sorry. Can we reconcile? Give me a chance, please— I’ll stop asking for money from you. Forget about the car and house. We can still get married without it,” said Jasmine. At the same time, tears began to well up in her eyes.

Eric scoffed internally. Just two days ago, Jasmine had been demanding compensation from him, and now she had the audacity to ask for reconciliation? There was no way he

would agree or forgive her, even if he weren't married to Sylvia. Once a cheater, always a cheater.

Tears trickled down Jasmine's cheeks as Eric remained quiet. "Eric, after all these years together, is it too much to ask for you to forgive me? Just once, that's all I'm asking!"

Eric remained silent and did not even take a look at her.

Soom, a taxi arrived, and Eric quickly hopped in.

"Assh*le!" Jasmine stomped her foot in frustration.

She flagged down a taxi and chased after Eric—she had to complete her task or kiss her Porsche goodbye!

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Jasmine continued to pester Eric after he arrived at the hospital.

"Jasmine, exactly what do you want!?" Eric glared at Jasmine. He was fuming.

This would never have happened in the past, as Jasmine would burst into tears, throw tantrums, and even threaten to kill herself if Eric spoke slightly harshly to her. Hell would break loose, and Eric would have to buy her gifts to restore peace. It was peculiar to see Jasmine unusually calm in such a situation.

"Eric, please forgive me, and let's start over. Just once!" Jasmine grabbed Eric's hands.

"I'll listen to you and stop overspending!"

"Listen to me?" Eric raised his brow.

"Yes, I'll listen to you!" Jasmine was delighted, thinking Eric had finally given in.

“If that’s the case...” Eric pointed at the hospital’s main entrance. “Then get lost, and don’t ever show up in front of me again!”

Jasmine was shocked and furious.

“Eric Johnson! You’re crossing the line! I’ve lowered myself, so what more do you want?” cried Jasmine.

“Get lost! You ruined my day,” Eric said indifferently as he strode off.

After reading the cringe messages between Jasmine and David, Eric’s heart had turned cold toward her.

Chapter 14

Jasmine gnashed her teeth. Eric had undergone a noticeable transformation. He used to listen to her obediently, never daring to speak up against her. The pain caused by Jasmine’s betrayal had deeply wounded Eric, making it impossible for him to consider taking her back. Nevertheless, Jasmine was not willing to give up easily.

Jasmine cheated on Eric with David for his money. She wanted David to divorce his wife and marry her, but he refused. Jasmine had stayed with Eric for almost a decade because he was a good person, but the only problem was his financial situation. Now, in order to get the Porsche that David had promised her, Jasmine knew she had to win Eric back.

Eric had expected that Elly would not show up at the hospital today. He had seen Elly’s post on Instagram yesterday night, and it seemed like there was a conflict between Elly and her husband.

Eric sat alone in the ward, and someone unexpectedly showed up.

The mayor of their small town, Hank Jenkins, had come to visit Mr. Johnson with some homegrown fruits and fresh milk in his hand.

“Mr. Jenkins, why are you here?” Eric was surprised to see him.

“The town’s construction is commencing soon. Your father gave me the land certificate previously, but the actual land area is still subject to measurement by the engineering team,” Hank said as he put down the fruit basket near the bed. “The area of your house and farm is about 10,000 square meters and worth approximately \$80,000. You need to take this matter seriously since your father is still hospitalized.”

Eric nodded in agreement.

The land requisition of their small town had started a few years ago. Since then, most of the younger generation had left the town to seek a better future.

“Your sister, Elly, also has a small plot of land, so she will receive a share of the compensation as well,” added Hank.

“Thanks, Mr. Jenkins,” said Eric.

He was not too happy about the requisition of their land. After all, it was where he and Elly had grown up.

Hank concluded his short visit to the hospital. His primary purpose was to update the Johnsons on the progress of their land requisition. Typically, the compensation would take about three months to be processed and paid to the families once the engineering team had thoroughly measured the land. The Johnsons’ lives would improve if they could receive the compensation as soon as possible.

Elly showed up near noon. Eric knew Elly and Craig must have had an argument last night because her eyes were still puffy and red. However, he knew not to bring up the topic unless Elly was willing to open up to him.

“Elly, Mr. Jenkins dropped by this morning. The engineering team wants to measure our land back home. Let’s go back together and have a look,” said Eric.

Elly nodded. She looked rather sad upon receiving the news.

Meanwhile, Jasmine had come to the hospital with a fruit basket in her hand. She knocked at the door and said, “Elly, Eric, I’m here to visit Mr. Johnson.” Jasmine entered the ward without permission.

Eric was about to lash out at Jasmine, but Elly intervened. She looked at him and shook her head. Eric took a seat and did not even take a look at Jasmine.

“Jasmine, I know what you did to Eric. Our family might not be wealthy, but we also have our limits. Consider yourself lucky that my father is still sleeping. Otherwise, he’d be livid to know what you’ve done,” said Elly.

Jasmine’s expression changed slightly, and she tried to justify her actions. “Elly, it’s my fault. Can you advise Eric to give me a chance? Everyone makes mistakes. I’m not a saint, so it’s only normal for me to make mistakes. I believe you also make mistakes, right?”

Elly chuckled. “I do make quite a lot of mistakes, but I’ll never make the mistake that you did. Eric is married, so please leave and stop bothering him anymore.”

Jasmine was shocked upon hearing Elly’s words.

She had been under the impression that Eric had bought a fake marriage certificate just to piss her off. She looked at Eric only to receive the cold shoulder. Evidently, Eric did not want to have anything to do with Jasmine.

Jasmine left the hospital feeling dejected.

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At Westman Technology.

David was shocked to learn that Eric had gotten married.

“Who in their right mind would be willing to marry a sore loser like him!? Could it be that his wife has a powerful background? But it doesn’t make sense. How did he manage to get married without us noticing at all?” he muttered.

Since David was having an affair with Jasmine, he was well aware of Eric’s whereabouts and could facilitate her private meetings with Jasmine. Moreover, Jasmine was the only woman in Eric’s life.

“Beats me.” Jasmine shook her head.

She did not believe it when Eric said he was married, but it was a different story hearing it from Elly.

David narrowed his eyes and said, “Seems like I’ll have to take things into my own hands. Jasmine, continue to pester him.”

“Alright,” replied Jasmine.

She had her eyes on the Porsche David had promised.

—

At the Rosewood Estate.

Sylvia, who was at home due to her swollen ankles, furrowed her brows upon receiving a message from an anonymous sender accusing Eric of infidelity. She scrolled through her contact list and called Brook. The phone rang for a while before he finally answered the call.

“Was it fun following Eric around, Brook?” Sylvia spoke indifferently.

Nobody knew she was married except her own family. As such, it was easy for her to guess Brook was behind this since he was skilled in private investigation.

Brook smiled sheepishly and said, “Sylvia, I’m just worried about you. Please don’t get mad at me. I promise to stop immediately!”

“Why are you stopping now that you’ve found out he’s cheating on me? You should continue,” Sylvia said coldly.

“Sylvia, I promise to leave Eric alone!” Brook felt a chill run down his spine. It seemed like he was afraid of Sylvia.

“No, Brook, I insist,” said Sylvia. “You should keep an eye on him so that you can report to me if he’s up to no good. By the way, whether you decide to continue following him or not, get ready to spar with me when I return home.”

Sylvia hung up after uttering the last sentence.

“Dammit! Why did I send her that message!?” Brook slapped himself on the cheek. He never expected Sylvia to quickly realize he was the anonymous sender.

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In the house, a man in a suit approached Sylvia. “Ms. Sylvia.”

He was none other than Sylvia’s chauffeur.

“Brook is following Eric, the man we saw at the hospital. I want you to follow him and report his actions to me as well. Keep it a secret from Brook. I believe in you,” said Sylvia.

“Yes, Ms. Sylvia!” he replied.

Unbeknownst to Eric, he was being followed by three parties.

Chapter 15

Elly left the hospital early today.

When Mr. Johnson was awake, Eric told him about the land requisition. He was unable to speak because of his injuries, and tears kept rolling down his cheeks.

Eric knew his father was blaming himself for bringing further hardship to their family, which was already struggling financially. After Mr. Johnson fell asleep, Eric left after he had reminded his mother to take her medication on time. The private ward even prepared meals for the patient’s family members, so Eric knew his mother was not going to end up hungry.

Eric returned to the Rosewood Estate after getting some ingredients for dinner. Sylvia was sitting on the sofa when Eric entered the house.

“What do you feel like eating for dinner?” asked Eric.

“Before I answer your question, I heard that you’re still involved with that woman,” Sylvia said, her eyes filled with icy coldness. She felt displeased upon discovering that Brook had been following Eric, and it only worsened when he witnessed Eric with Jasmine. Sylvia anticipated that her words would catch Eric off guard.

After putting the ingredients in the kitchen, Eric sat next to Sylvia and asked, “Who told you so?”

Sylvia refused to answer Eric’s question. It would not be appropriate for her to reveal to Eric that Brook was tracking him after all.

Eric smiled and said, “On the day we went to the town hall to obtain our marriage certificate, it crossed my mind that I’d be hiding the truth from you if I had not broken up with Jasmine. I was determined to break up with her because she was cheating on me with my boss, David. I just quit David’s company today. I didn’t even want to see Jasmine, but she was so persistent in finding me. What am I supposed to do? Get a restraining order on her?”

“I don’t care what’s going on between you and her. But according to our marriage agreement, nothing should happen for the next three years,” muttered Sylvia.

Eric shrugged and said, “What could happen? We didn’t even kiss before.”

Sylvia’s expression darkened, so Eric quickly sprung to his feet and said, “I’ve bought seafood for dinner tonight.”

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The next day, Eric made breakfast and left it on the dining table before leaving the house. He went to the hospital so his mother could take a break.

When Eric left the house, Brook quickly followed him. Meanwhile, Sylvia’s chauffeur, who was also trying to follow Eric, backed out when he saw Brook. After Brook left, another car began to follow him.

Eric headed straight to the private ward after arriving at the hospital. Just as the men in the car were about to get out, Brook looked into the car that had been following him, smiled at them, and asked, “I realized you guys were following me from the Rosewood Estate to the hospital. Who sent you here?”

The driver smiled awkwardly and handed Brook a cigarette. “There must be a misunderstanding, pal. We are here to visit our friend!”

The corner of Brook’s mouth curled into a sneer. “Do I look like a fool to you? Spill the beans or suffer the consequences for lying to the awesome Master Brook.”

The driver’s expression changed dramatically, and he said hastily, “Mr. Brook Williams!? This is really a misunderstanding! I was following the man who just entered the hospital, not you!”

“Eric?” Brook furrowed his brow.

“Yes, that’s him! David Westman sent me to investigate whether someone with a powerful background supports Eric! It seems like that guy Eric gave him a hard time.”

Brook smiled upon hearing David’s name. He patted the man on the shoulder and said, “He’s nothing but an ordinary man. Tell David that Eric is only an ordinary citizen with no background.”

“Yes, sir!” The man nodded hastily.

Meanwhile, an ambulance would have nearly run over an old man if Eric had not pulled him away at the last moment. Eric headed to the private ward after ensuring the old man’s safety. As he left, a middle-aged man showed up anxiously.

“Dad! Why are you here? You shouldn’t be walking out on your own!” he asked.

One of the passersby said, “Hey, keep an eye on your father. An ambulance would have run him over if that young man hadn’t saved him in time!”

The middle-aged man was shocked, and his expression darkened as he made a call.

“Dr. Gray! I demand an explanation! My father almost got killed in your hospital!”

The hospital was thrown into a commotion.

Eric was filled with confusion as he gazed at his hands. He couldn’t comprehend how his speed and agility had suddenly improved to such an extent. The sight of the old man nearly being run over by the ambulance filled him with a surge of adrenaline.

“Eric.”

Eric snapped back to his senses.

It was Jasmine again. She quickly stopped Eric from turning away as she pleaded, “Eric, listen to me, please!”

“Alright, say what you need to say, and then scram!” Eric was desperate to get her out of his sight.

“I got together with David for your own good!” Tears began to well up in Jasmine’s eyes.

Eric was momentarily stunned before bursting into a fit of laughter.

“I only wanted to help you with your career. Do you really think I want to be with a sc*mbag like David?! You have no idea how much I sacrificed for you! Why can’t you just give me a chance!?” she said.

“Jasmine, enough is enough!” Eric blurted angrily. “I wasn’t born yesterday. It’s over now, so beat it!”

Jasmine darted toward Eric and said, “Eric, you said you’re married. That’s not true, right? Let’s get married right now! I don’t need a car or a house to marry you!”

“Get lost! I don’t want to see you ever again. You disgust me!” Eric pushed Jasmine away and strode away.

Jasmine’s presence had just ruined his day.

Jasmine’s expression turned unsightly. She had lowered herself in front of Eric, only for him to insult her.

Sylvia’s chauffeur, who had witnessed the encounter between Eric and Jasmine, immediately sent a message to Sylvia. In the message, he clarified that Jasmine desperately sought reconciliation with Eric, contradicting the story Sylvia had heard from Brook.

Sylvia was visibly angry upon receiving the message.

Sylvia: [Come back and fetch me!]

Chapter 16

Brook was prepared to continue monitoring Eric secretly when he ran into a member of the Sonnex family. The Williams and Sonnex might be competitors in Salt City, but they got along together quite well.

“Uncle Irvin,” Brook greeted the middle-aged man politely.

“Brook?” Irvin Sonnex was delighted to see Brook. “You’re here to visit Grandpa Josh again, aren’t you? Come, let’s have a sip of wine in his room.”

Brook had no choice but to reluctantly agree.

Josh Sonnex was in the private ward as well.

“Uncle Irvin, you’re here alone?” Brook asked as he realized Irvin was there on his own.

After Irvin helped Josh to lie down on the bed, he poured a glass of wine for Brook and said, “Grandpa Josh is asleep most of the time, so there’s no point keeping the rest of the family here waiting.”

Brook wore an awkward smile. Irvin seemed to be unaware of Brook’s implied meaning, or perhaps he was pretending to be clueless. Everyone in the Sonnex family knew Brook was pursuing Misty, Irvin’s daughter.

“Uncle Irvin, I should make a move now.” Brook never felt comfortable sitting next to Irvin by himself.

“Alright, thank you for visiting,” said Irvin.

Shortly after Brook left, Dr. Gray entered Josh’s private ward.

Dr. Gray apologized. “Mr. Irvin, I’m really sorry about it!”

Irvin looked at Dr. Gray with a dark expression. “Did you find out exactly what happened?”

“The ambulance was carrying a critical patient and didn’t notice Mr. Josh crossing the road. Thank God nothing bad happened!”

Irvin’s expression softened slightly upon hearing his words.

“A passerby told me a young man saved my father,” said Irvin.

“What a coincidence! I happen to know the young man who saved Mr. Josh!” replied Dr. Gray. He was so thankful to Eric.

“Where is he?” asked Irvin.

Meanwhile, Sylvia had arrived at the hospital. She was still stunning even though she was just wearing a pair of jeans, a plain top, and a pair of sneakers.

Jasmine was still waiting outside the private ward when she got there. She would never give up easily since the stakes were high.

‘Why is Sylvia at the hospital? Is she here to teach Eric a lesson?’ thought Brook. He felt a lump in his throat, seeing how fierce and determined she was.

Naturally, Brook followed Sylvia secretly to see how she would deal with Eric.

Jasmine was dreaming about her Porsche when a whiff of fragrance snapped her back to her senses. She staggered backward when she saw Sylvia.

Sylvia asked, “Eric has broken up with you, and you are with that scoundrel. So, why are you still clinging on to Eric like a cheap and dirty rag?”

Jasmine composed herself, crossed her arms, and looked at Sylvia disdainfully. “Mind your own business, b*tch!”

Sylvia slapped Jasmine across the cheek again. “Mind your tongue!”

Eric came out upon hearing the commotion outside the ward. Jasmine was about to retaliate, so he stood in front of Sylvia and stared coldly at Jasmine. “Enough is enough!”

Eric was furious. Jasmine’s relentless pursuit was driving him crazy, but he could never bring himself to hit a woman.

Jasmine pointed at Sylvia and said with jealousy. “Who is she?”

‘Did Eric’s sudden change of attitude have to do with her,’ she wondered.

“I’m Eric’s wife, Sylvia!” Sylvia took a step forward and said, “Don’t even think of laying a finger on my man!”

Eric was shocked at how domineering Sylvia was.

Jasmine was in shock as well. She did not expect the elegant woman standing in front of her to be Eric’s wife. Her insecurities crept up as she realized Eric had married a woman much more beautiful than her.

Brook was shocked to see how protective Sylvia was.

“Eric must be perfect. Otherwise, why would Sylvia be so protective of him?” mumbled Brook.

He was impressed that Eric was not torn into pieces in the presence of his wife and ex-girlfriend.

Dejected, Jasmine left the hospital in an instant.

Sylvia glanced at Eric and said before leaving the scene, “I don’t want to see her show up for the third time.”

Eric scratched his head, as it was not within his control. Before he could ask Sylvia about her ankles, Sylvia had vanished out of sight.

Meanwhile, Jasmine had returned to Westman Technology and recounted everything to David.

David’s face displayed a smug expression as he spoke. “There’s nothing to fear. He’s just a white-collar worker.”

He felt ridiculous at how afraid he had been for the past few days and would become a laughing stock if his friends learned about it. He looked at Jasmine and said, “What does his wife look like?”

“Babe!” Jasmine leaned on David and coquettishly said, “Are you having dirty ideas again?”

David burst out into laughter. “Wouldn’t it be more delightful to steal his wife after messing with his girlfriend? He’d hate me to the bones!”

David’s anger intensified upon discovering that Eric lacked the backing of a powerful individual. ‘An eye for an eye!’ David was persistent in getting his revenge on Eric.

—

In Mr. Johnson’s private ward.

Irvin narrowed his eyes and said, “Are you sure you don’t want anything? You do know I, Irvin Sonnex, am a prominent figure in Salt City and can grant whatever you wish for?”

Eric shook his head. “Mr. Irvin, I just happened to be there and saved your father. It’s nothing.”

Irvin nodded and put his name card on the table as he rose to his feet. “Call this number if you’re facing any difficulties in Salt City.”

Eric could not believe his luck. For the past few days, not only had he managed to settle his father’s surgical bill, but the old man he saved earlier turned out to be Josh Sonnex from Sonnex Corp.

Unbeknownst to Sylvia and Brook, Eric had become acquainted with the Sonnex family through a twist of fate while they were sitting in Sylvia’s business minivan.

Brook smiled sheepishly. “Sylvia, Sylvester sent me. We’re just worried about you.”

Brook placed the blame on Sylvester.

Sylvia rubbed her forehead and said, “Sylvester should know better than to interfere. Go back and tell him I can handle my affairs.”

Brook was kicked out of the minivan after receiving a stern warning from Sylvia.

Chapter 17

Eric did not take Irvin seriously. An ordinary Joe like him preferred to live a simple and peaceful life.

Once Mr. Johnson recovered and was discharged from the hospital, Eric would resume seeking other job opportunities. Given his skills and capabilities, he should be able to secure a new job. As for his marriage with Sylvia, he decided to take it one step at a time and see how things would unfold for them.

Eric reminded Mrs. Johnson to take her medication on time and left the hospital in the afternoon. The nurses attending to Mr. Johnson would also remind her at times, so there was nothing for him to be worried about.

Eric was heading to the supermarket to get groceries when someone grabbed his shoulder.

“Hey bro, do you have some cash on you? Can you lend me some?” asked a man.

Eric touched his pockets and said, “Sorry man, I don’t have a single penny on me.”

Eric was surprised. Who would carry a large amount of cash in this time and era?

“No worries.” The man chuckled, pulled out his phone, and turned on a QR code. “It’s important to keep up with technology.”

Eric’s expression darkened. He pushed the man away and ran as fast as he could. The compensation he had gotten from David was in his bank account, and there was no way he would allow them to take it away from him. Alas, the muggers were too fast for him.

The leader of the group sneered. “Son of a b*tch! You can’t outrun us! Get his phone, guys! There must be money in his account!”

His lackeys charged toward Eric.

Eric refused to give in and swung his fist out of desperation.

—

Back in the Rosewood Estate.

Sylvia had been waiting for Eric. It was way past the time when Eric would have normally returned. Eric should give her a call if he was not coming home.

Sylvia furrowed her brow. She was about to text Eric when her phone suddenly rang.

“Hello, who is this?” asked Sylvia.

“Is this Ms. Sylvia? Good day, ma’am. I’m calling from the police department. Your husband is being detained at the police station for getting involved in a fight on the street. We kindly request you to come and bail him out.”

Sylvia was rendered speechless. She quickly dressed up and went to the police station. When Sylvia saw Eric, he had a bruise on his face. However, he was in better shape than the group of thugs who had tried to mug him.

After understanding the situation briefly, Sylvia bailed Eric out with \$450.

“They tried to mug me.” Eric lowered his head like a child who had made a mistake.

Sylvia glanced at Eric. “I heard what happened. If this happens again in the future, just give me a call.”

Eric was perplexed. Why would Sylvia want to get involved in a troublesome situation?

Sylvia ignored Eric and texted Brook, asking him to investigate the men who had tried to mug Eric. The investigation led Brook to David.

“That b*stard!” Brook scoffed. “I’ll let you enjoy the moment and deal with you later!”

Brook shared the findings of his investigation with Sylvia.

Brook: [What do you think, Sylvia? Do you want me to intervene?]

Sylvia did not reply to Brook’s message.

The next day, she went to the hospital, and Eric was surprised to see her.

“What are you staring at? Let’s go,” said Sylvia.

Eric realized she had purposely come to take him home, probably to avoid the bunch of thugs that messed with him yesterday. Unsurprisingly, the bunch of thugs were waiting for him outside the hospital.

“What a beauty! A gift for us? Thanks, man!” said one of the thugs.

Eric quickly stood between Sylvia and the group of thugs and asked solemnly, “Exactly what do you want from me?”

The leader of the thugs sneered. “Leave the money and woman behind and get lost!”

Outraged, Eric clenched his fists tightly.

At that moment, Sylvia pressed his shoulder and said, “The few of them just want to play. I’ll play with them.”

“Sylvia!” Eric furrowed his brow. He wondered what she was trying to do.

The group of thugs burst into a fit of laughter.

Sylvia gestured at the group of thugs seductively and said, “Come on.”

The group of thugs charged toward Sylvia like hungry predators.

Eric clenched his fists tightly. How was Sylvia going to take down a group of men? He would be filled with regret if Sylvia was injured because of him.

Sylvia might be weaker than a man, but she was skilled. Her strikes were on point, and she quickly took down the group of thugs. She locked the wrist of the group leader and pressed her knee against the back of his neck.

“Tell me, did David Westman send you!?” asked Sylvia.

“Ma’am! Who is David Westman? I don’t know him at all!” The man refused to give in.

“Tell me the truth!” she demanded.

Sylvia pressed her knee against the back of his neck with more force, and the man confessed. “Alright! I’ll tell you! David sent us!”

Sylvia released the man and looked at Eric. He was in shock at how skilled Sylvia was. Eric had fought the group of thugs yesterday for a few rounds, and he had been punched in the face, but Sylvia managed to take them down within seconds.

Sylvia dusted her hands and said, “I took some lessons in self-defense. A beautiful woman like me should know how to protect herself.”

She stood next to Eric and added, “What are you going to do with this matter? David is going to keep messing with you if you don’t do anything about it.”

Eric frowned. He never expected David to be the instigator. He had been under the impression that the conflict between them was over after David settled his compensation.

“I’ll find my way,” said Eric.

Eric knew David too well—he did not want David to set his eyes on Sylvia.

“I’ll go to his office tomorrow to deal with him,” he said. He was ready to retaliate with the evidence Andy had obtained.

Chapter 18

Sylvia did not intervene since Eric did not suffer any losses. Moreover, Eric did not want to rely on Sylvia whenever troubles occurred and be a nuisance to her.

“How are your ankles?” asked Eric.

He remembered Sylvia had twisted her ankles badly the other night, so he did not expect her to recover so quickly.

“It still hurts, but it doesn’t stop me from taking down a group of thugs,” replied Sylvia.

The corner of Eric’s mouth twitched. That explained why Sylvia was not worried about sharing a house with him. It was because she knew self-defense.

Eric started making dinner after they returned to the house. Meanwhile, Sylvia was liaising with her secretary. She had been absent for two days, and Sylvester had been taking care of things.

“Alright, I got it. Inform the rest that we will be having a meeting tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. to come up with a solution.” Sylvia sighed and hung up the phone.

Eric was serving the dishes when he overheard Sylvia on the phone.

“Is there a problem?” Eric felt foolish for raising this question when he could not even take care of his own problems.

Unexpectedly, Sylvia replied, “Something happened while I was away. I need to go to the office tomorrow and might get busy for a long time.”

“Frankly speaking, I’m curious about your position in Williams Corp. Do you own Williams Corp.?” Eric asked again.

Sylvia’s heart skipped a beat. She had been hiding her identity, so how had Eric managed to find out?

Eric smiled and said, “It’s hard not to think that way since you share the same family name with Williams Corp.”

Sylvie sighed in relief when she realized Eric was just making a wild guess.

“I’m actually a distant relative of the Williams family. My relationship with the family doesn’t run deep. I was able to join Williams Corp. because of my capabilities. After so many years with the corporation, I only managed to climb to the middle management level.”

Unbeknownst to Sylvia, Eric felt relieved upon hearing that.

He would be under great pressure if Sylvia was the daughter of the Williams family, who owned Williams Corp.

The next morning, Eric left the house after leaving breakfast on the dining table. He wanted to confront David but did not know if the evidence of his infidelity Andy had obtained was his weak spot.

—

At Westman Technology.

Andy was shocked to see Eric show up at the office. “Why are you here?”

Andy knew Eric had obtained his compensation from David and assumed their animosity had been resolved. Thus, he never thought that the day for them to use the evidence against David would arise.

Andy said anxiously, “Stop fighting against David. It’s a good thing he took Jasmine away from you. She finally revealed her true colors.”

Eric replied, “That b*stard doesn’t plan to let things slide. He sent someone to the hospital and blocked me twice! Anyway, I plan to confront him today to find out if the evidence we gained can actually intimidate him.”

Eric was going to end this once and for all.

Andy let out a sigh.

As an employee, Eric did not have the capabilities to stand up to his boss. However, David had targeted him repeatedly. He would be a coward if he did not retaliate.

Chapter 19

“Alright! You have my full support and encouragement!” said Andy.

He didn’t have to go against David since he was still an employee in his company. He was enjoying taking advantage of the company’s benefits and slacking off at work.

Jasmine was in David’s office, so Eric smiled as he saw her in there. David also smiled as he realized Eric had shown up. He was grinning from ear to ear as if Eric was a Christmas present.

After Sylvia had beaten up the group of thugs yesterday, they returned to David to report what had happened.

“You’re here. Take a seat!” David said with a smile.

Eric shook his head, tossed the envelope in his hands on David’s desk, and said straightforwardly,” David, can we end our animosity and never disturb each other anymore?”

David was stunned. He looked into the envelope, and his eyes narrowed.

“Eric, what is this? I don’t get it...”

Eric said, “David, stop acting. It wouldn’t be too much for me to hand this to your wife after you sent a group of people to block me at the hospital, right?”

David slammed the desk and glared at Eric. “Are you threatening me!?”

Based on David’s reaction, Eric knew he had hit the jackpot.

David scowled. “How dare you threaten me. Do you really think I’m afraid of my wife? What a joke!”

Eric’s heart sank.

He was no match for David in reading people’s intentions since he had been working in the technical aspects under David all these years. He was too green to fight against a sly old fox like

David.

David leaned back into his chair and smiled at Eric. He took out two medical reports from his

drawer and threw them in front of Eric.

“This is the hospital’s assessment. According to the report, the two punches you inflicted on me

have resulted in severe injuries. This is a criminal offense. I’d like to see how you are going to

resolve this!”

David knew Eric was just an ordinary person with no background, so he used it to his advantage.

Eric clenched his fists tightly. He never expected he had fallen into David’s trap.

David sneered. “Eric, I heard that you are married and that your wife is a beauty. I won’t take this

matter to court if you let me mess with her!”

Eric’s anger surged within him as he heard David’s words. He suppressed his rage and gestured for David to come closer, saying, “I want to talk to you. Come here!”

David approached with a smile on his face. He was excited at the thought of messing with Eric’s wife after stealing his girlfriend.

“Go to hell, David!” snarled Eric.

Eric was burning with rage. He punched David fiercely several times and left immediately.

David was bleeding from the nose and suffered a cut to his mouth. When he got up to his feet, Eric had already fled.

“Son of a b*tch! I’ll kill you!” David barked as he wiped the blood off of his nose.

Chapter 20

Eric panted heavily at the roadside. He had completely provoked David, but he remained composed. In the past, he would have been crippled with fear if he had provoked David.

Eric hailed a taxi to get to the hospital. David knew his father was still in the hospital, so Eric was worried about Blake. Someone patted Eric on the shoulder before he could get into the taxi.

“Hey buddy, we met again. What a coincidence.”

Eric turned back and saw the same man with slick hair he had met previously at the same spot.

“Why are you here as well?” Eric furrowed his brow. He could not help but wonder if the man was tracking him.

“Is it weird to see me here? I have some business dealings with David. That punk still owes me a few hundred grand! I’m here for the money.”

“I’m afraid it’s difficult to recover the money,” said Eric. “David is a stingy b*stard. It’s impossible to get money from him!”

Brook smiled confidently. “He doesn’t have the audacity not to pay back my money.”

Éric sighed as he realized the disparity between people. David would not dare owe Brook money, but he could easily manipulate Eric. It seemed like the man in front of him was no ordinary person.

“The tactic you suggested to me previously won’t work. David isn’t afraid of his wife at all. Otherwise, he wouldn’t bring his mistress to work,” said Eric.

Brook looked at Eric. “Buddy, do you really believe what he said? Then would you believe me if I told you I’m Brook Williams from the Williams family?”

Eric stared at Brook and shook his head. “You don’t seem like you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth. The descendants of a wealthy family should still be sleeping at this hour of the day. They wouldn’t wake up this early.”

The stereotypical comment about the descendants of wealthy families living an extravagant lifestyle, indulging in parties, and drinking all night rendered Brook speechless.

“I know David,” said Brook.

He then took out his phone, went through the contact list, jotted down a number, and gave it to Eric. “This is his wife’s number. I met her for poker a few times before. Call her and tell her that you have evidence of David’s infidelity. I bet she will be more than willing to help you.”

Eric was shocked inwardly. He did not expect the slick-haired man to be able to obtain the phone number of David’s wife.

“What is his wife’s name?” asked Eric.

“Just call her Big Sis.” Brook waved his hand. “I gotta go now. We will continue our conversation another time.”

Eric nodded. He was so preoccupied with thinking about ways to fight David that he forgot to ask Brook for his number. Eric took out his phone and called David’s wife.

The phone rang a couple of times and was answered quickly.

“Who is this!?” A woman’s voice sounded.

Eric felt a knot in his stomach before gulping and saying, “Is this Big Sis? I have evidence to prove David Westman’s infidelity.”

“Let’s meet up at a place that is convenient for you. I’ll reward you accordingly!” replied the woman.

Eric stammered, “Y–Yes, Big Sis!”

He could not help but wonder if Big Sis and David were from the same side. However, he chose to believe Brook because he was desperate.

At a coffee house.

The corner of Eric’s mouth twitched as he saw Big Sis. She was 1.8 meters tall, and her waist was as thick as a barrel.