

Recovery Of Love Chapter 11 - 20

Chapter 11 Something Strange About Ian

Just when I was about to make my escape with my purse in hand, the guy pointed to the fried rice, of which I had only eaten several mouthfuls. “But you haven’t finished your fried rice!” he said.

At this moment, I was already filled with anger, and I had no appetite for food anymore. “You can have it. I’m not eating it!”

It was just a casual remark, but the guy took it seriously. He picked up the fork and began eating the leftovers without a care that I had already taken a few bites of it. “Food is precious. No matter how good our living conditions are, we shouldn’t waste food, right?” He enjoyed the meal, even licking up every bit of food left at the corner of his mouth. I was extremely impatient with his lecture, though. “Listen, I admire your spirit of not wasting food, but I don’t have an appetite right now. I have to get going.” I didn’t want to waste time talking to him anymore, especially as Ian and Eileen were getting closer. If I didn’t leave soon, I might miss the chance to escape.

Just when I was about to escape from the back, the guy said, “If you want to meet Mr. Holland, I can help you with that.”

Startled by his words, I stood there for a few seconds, but there was no joy in my heart. Instead, I turned around and said to him between clenched teeth, “Why didn’t you say that earlier?”

“You didn’t ask!” he replied.

“I...” I was utterly speechless; this guy was truly something else. “Alright, alright, I’m begging you, can you please stop playing with me? It was my fault for hurting you, but I did apologize. You said this meal is on you. Fine, as long as you can help me meet with Mr. Holland, I’ll treat you to as many meals as you want.” I wasn’t sure if he could really help me make contact with Timothy, but seeing that he could freely go in and out of the

Asco Group, I thought he perhaps had some influence there.

The guy just focused on eating without saying a word; I had no idea if he was even listening to what I said.

Suddenly, a familiar yet repulsive voice sounded behind me. “Robyn Landon?”

In an instant, my neck stiffened, and my fists clenched. My fears have materialized!

Before I knew it, that damn Eileen appeared behind me. “Oh, it really is you! I thought I’d mistaken someone else for you.”

I turned around and looked at her with a frown. “It’s just a piece of clothing. Do you have to be so persistent?” I purposely turned the tables first so that I wouldn’t end up being at a crushing disadvantage while dealing with the two of them.

“Haha...” Eileen let out a silvery giggle. “Just a piece of clothing? Haha! If you have to pay for it, I’m afraid you can’t even afford a single thread, can you?”

Her caustic words attracted the attention of the people around us, and they all turned to look at me. Only that guy was definitely still focused on eating because I heard him slurp. Eileen then stood on tiptoe to get a better look at the guy behind me. “Oh, if I’m not mistaken, that person is your boyfriend, right? Wow! Your boyfriend sure has a big appetite. Look at him! He looks like he hasn’t eaten enough. Why don’t you order seconds for him?”

Seriously, if I have committed any sins, let the heavens punish me. Why do I have to endure such torment from this guy?

Just when I was about to speak up to defend myself, the guy got up, wiped his mouth, and walked over to my side. “The fried rice is so delicious! I haven’t had such a satisfying meal in a long time. By the way, what are you two arguing about?”

I turned my head to give him a dirty look.

Eileen retreated to Ian’s side while affectionately holding his arm. “Well, Robyn, you’re pretty lucky. This pretty boy looks rather handsome. Not even Ian can compare with him,” she remarked.

Ian glanced at me, then looked at the guy next to me.

I vaguely noticed something strange in his gaze, like there was something wrong. Don't tell me he actually thinks that the guy next to me is my boyfriend? Is he feeling jealous? Haha! In my heart, I was secretly pleased. Time for him to taste what it feels like to see the woman he fancies with another man. It must feel awful, doesn't it?

Just as I expected, he couldn't hold it in any longer. "Robyn, are you sure he's your boyfriend?"

I looked at him silently with a deliberate and mischievous smile on my lips.

The guy next to me was quite a good observer. Taking the opportunity, he wrapped his arm around my shoulders, saying, "Did Robyn offend you two in any way? As it happens, I haven't eaten enough either. Let me treat you to a meal as an apology on her behalf!"

I was instantly speechless. He hasn't eaten enough? He just had a whole platter of frog legs plus side dishes and a plate of fried rice! And he said he hasn't eaten enough?

Eileen doubled up with laughter. "Haha! Robyn, how did you end up with a big eater as your boyfriend?"

I could clearly sense the guy next to me getting angry at being called a big eater. His hand resting on my shoulder trembled slightly, but he didn't show any sign of displeasure.

Inwardly, however, I felt sorry for him. After all, it was because of me that he got called names by Eileen. I said to her, "Eileen Keyes, can you stop behaving like a mad dog, biting everyone you see? It's fine if you call me names..." I could put up with it if she called me names, but I would flip out if she included the people around me.

Eileen glared daggers at me with wide eyes. "What did you call me? H-How dare you call me a mad dog?"

"Isn't it true? If you'd had a rabies shot, you wouldn't have gone this insane!" I retorted.

Ian just stood there in silence without standing up for Eileen.

Eileen said to him, "Look at her, Ian! She actually dares to call me names in front of

you!”

I noticed that Ian’s expression was surprisingly dark, especially his eyes, which emitted a chilling glare that sent shivers down my spine. If there weren’t other people around, he would probably have slapped me across the face.

After looking daggers at me, he wrapped his arm around Eileen and was about to leave.

“Let’s go.”

“Huh? Ian, aren’t you going to stick up for me? She’s a woman who repeatedly defies you. Aren’t you angry with her?”

I could tell that Eileen was completely dumbfounded. What’s wrong with him today? He usually acts all high and mighty, but today, he just stood there without saying a word while his woman was being disrespected.

“Are you coming or not?!” he thundered angrily.

Startled, Eileen couldn’t help but tremble in fear. She had no choice but to obediently follow Ian and leave.

Only when they had disappeared completely did I heave a sigh of relief.

“What’s your relationship with them?” asked the man after retracting his hand.

“What else could it be? That guy is my ex-husband, while that woman is his mistress,” I replied casually, seemingly no longer caring about what other people might think.

The man looked astonished, as if he had just heard some major gossip. “Your ex-husband? You mean that guy is your ex-husband?”

I replied, “What’s wrong with that? You don’t happen to know my ex-husband, do you?”

Oh, right, he’s the president of Winter Medical Group, and many people know him, so it’s not surprising if you know him too.” I had almost forgotten that Ian was the president of Winter Medical Group. And besides, he had received a great deal of attention for sponsoring the beauty pageant competition.

Learning that I was Ian’s ex-wife, the guy looked at me with sympathy in his eyes.

I cautioned, “Don’t go around telling people about this, okay? If this reaches his ear, I’ll

be in big trouble.” I couldn’t let the man know about this—at least not until I had left Monreso.

The guy was puzzled. “Wait, I don’t quite understand. What do you mean by not letting him know? What is it that he isn’t supposed to know?”

I smacked my forehead before explaining the whole situation to him. Since he was an outsider, I didn’t mind telling him the truth. So, I recounted everything from the beginning to the end, including how Ian had asked me to talk to Timothy about the land deal.

After listening to my story, he exclaimed with a look of amazement, “This is truly sensational!” He slowly clapped his hands in shock as though he had just heard some incredible story.

“Stop making fun of me, will you? He’s still having a handle against my friend right now. So, you’ve got to help me and make sure that I get to meet Mr. Holland,” I pleaded, shaking his arm.

“Well... Let me think about this...” He rubbed his chin, appearing troubled by the request.

Didn’t he just say he could help me? Could it be that he changed his mind after knowing that I’m working for Ian? Well, that’s not surprising, considering that he’s an employee of the Asco Group. There’s no way he doesn’t know that Ian has offended Mr. Holland before.

“If you find it difficult, then forget it. I know that my ex-husband has offended Mr. Holland before. It’ll certainly make it hard for you,” I said. I understood his position and didn’t want to force him into anything.

“Hmm... It’s not that difficult, actually. But you have to allow me some time to think it over,” he replied.

I was disappointed at first; I thought that I had lost my only hope. “Really?”

“Uh-huh... But I have a condition!”

“Condition? What condition is it? As long as it doesn’t violate any moral and ethical principles and doesn’t cross any—”

“Call me Brother, and I’ll agree.”

Heh... The condition wasn’t excessive, just a bit peculiar. It was often said that a man and woman who called each other ‘Brother’ and ‘Sis’ would end up together sooner or later. This guy probably works as an accountant at the Asco Group, given that he’s so good at calculating. But then again, this seems much more favorable than submitting to Ian’s tyranny. “Brother!” I replied without hesitation. After all, it wasn’t a big deal, just a casual way of addressing someone.

Chapter 12 Hotel Rescue

In just one day, my relationship with this guy progressed from being strangers to becoming siblings.

Deep down, I was quite opposed to it. Not to mention that we had only known each other for less than ten hours, but his foodie behavior made it hard for me to forget.

He was undeniably handsome, and elegant, and even had a hint of a vocal fry in his voice.

However, his enormous appetite and eating manners were in extreme contrast to his image.

Oh well. I would have to just forget it. As long as I had this connection with him, it should be no problem to meet Timothy.

After bidding him farewell, I returned to the hotel.

I absentmindedly closed the door and quickly stripped myself naked before heading straight into the bathroom to take a hot bath.

It had been a both physically and mentally exhausting day...

I spent a good half an hour in the shower before finally coming out. I was too lazy to even dry myself properly. I just lay down on the bed soaking wet and fell asleep.

In the middle of the night, my phone rang. Someone sent me a video call request.

It rang several times before I woke up in a daze.

I picked up my phone and saw that it was a video call request from Ian.

I was about to accept it when I suddenly realized I was completely naked, so I quickly declined the call.

After a while, Ian called me directly.

“Mr. Winter, can’t you tell the time? Do you have to disturb people’s sleep?” I was so uncomfortable from being half-asleep and being awakened like this was driving me crazy.

“Why didn’t you answer the video call?” Ian scolded on the phone.

“Why are you yelling? I wasn’t wearing any clothes. How can I video call you?”

As soon as I mentioned I wasn’t wearing clothes, there was silence on the other end for a while.

“You’re not wearing clothes? Where are you? Who are you with?”

All these repeated questions were making me feel annoyed as I was already tired. “Do I really need to report to you about who I am with?”

Again, there was silence on the other end.

After a while, he finally spoke again. “I must say I’m surprised. I thought you were so virtuous. Heh... It turns out you also use these means to please others.”

“Nothing good ever comes from your filthy mouth. What do you mean by that?”

I was just trying to provoke him, but I didn’t expect him to take it seriously and degrade me like that.

“Don’t pretend to be ignorant in front of me. Since you have such a trick up your sleeves, I’ll stop beating around the bush.”

“Three days. I want to get the news that Timothy agrees to sell the land to me within three days. Otherwise, I don’t mind sending Dr. Fulton to prison for a few years.”

I was shocked and sat up. My mind suddenly became clear. “Mr. Winter, even if Dr. Fulton accepted money from patients, that’s at most a moral issue. What right do you

have to send him to jail?”

Ian said triumphantly on the phone, “Why? Do you think I only have one leverage?”

“Why you...”

I should have thought that he had several backup plans when dealing with women, let alone someone he disliked.

“Listen carefully: you have only three days. Get the matter done. I always keep my word, and I won’t make things difficult for you and Mr. Fulton.”

Beep.

He hung up the phone directly.

I threw my phone aside and felt suffocated. I wanted to scream or even cry loudly.

What right did he have to treat me like this? I had already distanced myself from him, so why did he come back into my life?

Why did fate have to play such a cruel joke on me?

I felt a deep sense of grievance. What did I do to deserve this?

Upon thinking of Jude’s situation, I did not feel sleepy anymore.

If he really went to prison, his future would be ruined.

If not for this incident, his future would have looked bright, and he would have achieved outstanding results in the medical field.

The more I thought about it, the angrier I got. Ian was too selfish.

I couldn’t fall asleep for the rest of the night. I lay on the bed like a corpse until the morning sun shone through the window, and I got up to freshen up.

As soon as I finished putting on makeup, I received a call from that foodie.

I answered after clearing my throat, “Hey, Brother. I was just about to call you.”

“Oh, really? That’s perfect. Hurry down to the lobby and treat me to breakfast. I’m already at your hotel.”

“What? You’re at the hotel lobby?” I suddenly remembered something. “You’re not following me, are you?”

“Don’t put it like that. What do you mean by following? I’m just... escorting you. Yes. Escorting you.”

I was speechless.

I was really careless to let someone tail me to the hotel.

Fortunately, he didn’t have any bad intentions. Otherwise, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Even the thought of it was scary.

I quickly packed up and went downstairs.

I saw him innocently waiting at the hotel entrance, and the fear in my heart dissipated.

“Hey, you didn’t follow me just for breakfast, did you?”

He was definitely the leader of foodies. Ordinary people couldn’t do such a thing.

Even if he claimed to be following me with ulterior motives, I wouldn’t find him abnormal, just scary.

He smiled without confirming or denying it.

Just as I was about to go out for breakfast with him, the hotel receptionist suddenly rushed out and called to me, “Dr. Landon, please wait!”

I turned back and saw that it was Barbara York, the hotel receptionist, calling me.

“What’s wrong, Barbara? Is something the matter?”

She wanted to catch her breath first, but because a person’s life was at stake, she gasped and said, “Dr. Landon, please come and take a look. An elderly guest fainted.”

“Hurry up and take me there!” As a medical professional, I naturally had to take care of such situations.

I didn’t hesitate to agree.

Mr. Foodie followed behind me. He didn’t tell me his name, so I could only call him that.

After all, his various behaviors were that of a true foodie and just calling him “Brother” felt a bit strange to me.

We came to the 25th floor under Barbara’s guidance.

“Have you called an ambulance?”

“We have, but the nearest hospital is about ten minutes away during rush hour.”

She had called for an ambulance, but it would take more than ten minutes to arrive during the morning rush hour.

We arrived at room 2501, where a young and beautiful girl stood with tears streaming down her face.

The person who fainted was an elderly man in his sixties. He was wrapped only in a bath towel.

I quickly went to the old man’s side before crouching down and putting my ear to his chest. “He has a heartbeat.”

Then, I opened his eyelids and checked his breathing.

“The pupils are not dilated, and he is still breathing.”

Based on my preliminary examination, I formed an early diagnosis.

“Miss, who is he to you?” I walked to the girl’s side and tried to understand more about the patient’s condition.

She blushed and couldn’t lift her head at my question.

After seeing her reaction, I had a rough idea of their relationship, so I changed the question. “Does he have any medical history?”

The girl shook her head, indicating that she didn’t know anything.

There was no other way. I could only rely on my own judgment. “Barbara, do you have a first-aid kit?”

“Yes!”

She hurriedly brought the hotel’s first-aid kit from the duty room.

Mr. Foodie came over and asked, “How is the old man? What’s wrong with him?”

“Based on my initial judgment, it should be caused by emotional excitement. You will understand once you look at that girl. When the old man got excited, his heart rate accelerated, and his heart was continuously pumping blood, causing high blood pressure

which led him to faint.”

After listening to my explanation, he murmured, “This old man must be over sixty years old, yet he still has so much energy?”

I shot him a dirty look and hurried to attend to the old man.

I took out a disposable syringe and examined the old man’s radial pulse. After finding the right spot, I drew about half a syringe of blood.

Then, I employed some massaging techniques to draw out some blood from him manually.

Seeing I had done just about enough, I quickly disinfected the spot where I had pricked him.

I used the most common method of bloodletting to quickly lower the patient’s blood pressure.

After a few minutes, the old man slowly opened his eyes. “Angel... Angelina...”

The first thing the old man did when he woke up was call out the girl’s name.

The girl quickly wiped the tears from her eyes and said, “I’m here. I’m right here.”

She quickly came to the old man’s side and let him lie on her lap.

After making sure that the old man was fine, I instructed Barbara, “When the ambulance arrives, I still suggest sending the old man to the hospital for a checkup.”

“Okay, Dr. Landon. Thank you so much. You truly have healing hands.”

It was just a simple task that was not worth thanking for. After all, becoming a doctor was all about treating and saving people.

“Miss Landon, I didn’t expect you to be so talented. Sigh. You’re such a remarkable talent. It’s a pity that someone has wasted it.” Mr. Foodie praised me, but I just smiled and didn’t respond. “Let’s go and have breakfast!”

“Yeah, let’s go! I’m starving!” He couldn’t wait and pushed me into the elevator.

Chapter 13 Treat Me to Meals for a Month

We found a breakfast shop on the street and sat across from each other. He was smiling at me while observing me with curiosity.

“Why are you staring at me like that? Is there something on my face?” I quickly took out a small mirror I carried with me to check if my makeup was okay.

“You don’t have to look. There’s nothing. I just think you not only look beautiful but can also cure people. You are an outstanding woman. Your ex-husband is truly the dumbest man in the world. If I were to marry someone like you, I would support her every day. How could I look for other women outside?”

He was really praising me, but the more people praised my abilities, the more frustrated I became.

If only Ian could think more rationally and not think with his lower body, would I have fallen to this point?

Speaking of Ian, I had to get to the point. I wanted to resolve the matter he asked me to handle as soon as possible. “Is it really possible that you can help me meet with Mr. Holland?”

I knew that asking this directly might be a downer, but wasn’t that the purpose of having breakfast with him?

“Do you want to see Mr. Holland that urgently?”

I kept the focus on this topic and was not afraid of annoying him.

“You know about the recent rumors concerning my friend. Only my ex-husband can help him clear his name. So, in order to free my friend from the public’s scrutiny as soon as possible, you have to help me.”

Maybe he understood my predicament because he didn’t mind my urgency. “You really are a person of great loyalty and righteousness.”

I also wished I could just ignore it, but my departure overseas was arranged by Jude. I couldn’t just abandon him.

“Repaying a favor is the hardest thing. I hate owing people favors the most. It’s not something that can be measured or resolved with money.”

I wasn’t afraid of owing money, but once I owed someone a favor, it was a completely different story. I didn’t know what kind of price I would have to pay to repay it.

“But there’s one thing you need to understand. Even if I can take you to meet Mr. Holland, how sure are you that he will reconcile and sell the land to the Winter Medical Group? Don’t tell me you’re just going to persuade him.”

His words stunned me.

It seemed like he was right.

The Asco Group had nothing to do with the Winter Medical Group, so why would Timothy listen to me and resolve the conflict with the Winter Medical Group just because I asked?

Did my reputation carry any value when thrown out there?

His words were right on the mark!

“I inquired about it and found that Mr. Holland is a young and successful businessman. He must be a reasonable person. If I explain the situation to him, do you think he would sympathize with me and readily agree?”

Cough, cough, cough...

My words made Mr. Foodie choke on his milk.

He quickly drank some more to clear his throat. “Do you know that guy is very petty and likes to hold grudges?”

He seemed to understand Timothy quite well, which made me curious. “That guy? Petty? You seem quite familiar with him.”

“Erm... I suppose,” he replied nonchalantly.

His attention was fully focused on the few plates of dumplings he ordered.

He really could eat. I only had a few dumplings and some milk before I was full.

“By the way, I heard that Mr. Holland is not interested in money or women and prefers to

be alone. Is there any truth to that?”

“Ugh...”

He choked on a dumpling and quickly washed it down with some milk. “Burp... Who told you that?”

“Everyone says so. For someone who isn’t interested in fame, wealth, or women, there’s nothing we can do to impress him.”

My words made him laugh. “If he were interested in women, could it be that you...?”

He gave me a mischievous look.

I glared at him. “Impossible. Besides, how could someone as prominent as Mr. Holland be interested in me?”

“Why do you say that? You lack confidence in yourself... How can you be so sure he wouldn’t be interested in you?”

I did have some self-awareness. Although Ian had ill intentions toward me, it was just his promiscuity, not that I was particularly outstanding or had an exceptional figure.

Especially considering the secretary beside Timothy. With her stunning figure and beautiful face, there were only a few women in the whole of Monreso who could compare to her.

“All right. Enough of that. Let’s not talk about these things. You just have to help me establish a connection. As long as I get to meet him, whether it works out or not is irrelevant. At least I tried, and I believe my friend won’t blame me.”

If it worked out, then it would be great. If not, I would not bow down to Ian either.

“You are really persistent. I have to warn you that Mr. Holland doesn’t meet with people easily. I will inform him about your situation beforehand. Whether he agrees to meet you or not will depend on him.”

I hadn’t expected him to be so considerate.

“Thank you so much. Um, while we’re on the topic, I actually have another request...”

He had already agreed to help me, and I felt a bit embarrassed to make more requests, so

I hesitated in asking.

However, he was quite agreeable. “You’re like my sister now. Just go ahead and make any request. Would I refuse as a brother?”

Wow! Has our relationship progressed to this casual level?

“You haven’t even told me your name. Yet you have the audacity to call yourself my brother?”

I needed to provoke him a bit. I had gotten used to calling him “Mr. Foodie,” which was a bit comical, but I was afraid I might accidentally slip up and call him something rude. That would be impolite.

“Call me Sean!”

This time he was straightforward. However, the name sounded a bit roguish, not quite matching his status, but it did match his personality.

“Can you make your request now?”

“I can tell that you are quite familiar with Mr. Holland, so I’d like to ask you to embellish things a little when you talk to him about me. The more pitiful you make me sound, the better. Maybe he will want to meet me then.”

Sean stared at me with a puzzled expression. “You’re quite scheming. You want to gain Mr. Holland’s sympathy with this tactic.”

“Hehe. I’m just trying it out. What if Mr. Holland is a soft-hearted person?”

Sean shook his head. Perhaps he thought that my idea was quite childish.

Not just him, but even I felt it was too far-fetched.

But what else could I do? I had no experience in these matters in the first place and I wasn’t smart enough. Ian forced me into this situation, and I had no choice but to try my luck blindly.

There was always the possibility of dumb luck.

“Okay. I’ll try to persuade Mr. Holland. But I have to ask, if I help you, shouldn’t I get something in return?”

Tsk... Tsk...

He had just said I was his sister, and now he was looking to benefit from me.

“I’ll treat you to a few more meals!” Since he could eat so much, and it was the only way I could repay him at the moment, there was no need to discuss other methods.

“For a month! I want you to treat me to meals for a month. It won’t be much. Just one meal a day, and it must be dinner.”

A month? He sure was asking for a lot.

With his never-ending appetite, I had no idea how much it would cost me. Besides, I still hadn’t found a job yet.

“What a guy who always raises the stakes! No. You’re a guy who takes advantage of others in dire situations. You lack integrity...”

“Wow! You actually know so many words to describe me!”

I was speechless.

I seriously suspected that Sean was sent to torment me.

“What? You don’t want to? You owe favors to others, and this is also considered owing me a favor, right?”

Hah... I bet he’s been waiting to say that...

“I don’t mind. I’ll agree to it. One month it is.”

“Great! Consider it settled. You can leave this matter to me. Wait for my news!” He picked up a bun, stuffed it into his mouth, and took a look at his watch.

“I have something to attend to now. Enjoy your meal!”

Then, he hurriedly left.

Upon seeing his roguish appearance, I couldn’t help but worry. I wondered if this guy was reliable or not.

I was curious about his position at Asco too. Based on what he said, his relationship with Timothy was not ordinary.

Otherwise, he wouldn’t have agreed so easily.

If he had ulterior motives and was ill-intentioned toward me, the 30 meals wouldn't be the only thing at stake.

Well, at least he seemed like a contented guy.

I didn't want to think about it. I just needed to stay calm.

After breakfast, I decided to apply for a job at a private clinic as I had nothing to do.

Even if this matter was resolved, I still had to address my livelihood. After all, I still owed someone 30 meals.

I definitely couldn't work at the hospital, and I should stay away from Ian's territory as well.

I needed to make a short-term plan. On one hand, I couldn't just sit around, and on the other hand, I couldn't let Ian manipulate me.

I refused to believe that he could be all-powerful in Monreso.

Chapter 14 Asco Signs the Contract

I visited more than a dozen private clinics, but none of them seemed suitable.

Either the salary was too low or they had poor patient flow.

Finally, I came across a private general hospital that was hiring.

The salary and benefits mentioned in the advertisement were quite enticing, but I wasn't sure if it was just a gimmick.

There were various job positions available, and after a quick review, I chose one that seemed to match my qualifications the most.

I had a phone call with the hospital's manager, who was a woman. We scheduled a job interview at 2.00PM.

I wandered around the vicinity until it was time, then promptly appeared at the hospital.

I also did some research in advance, and I found out that this hospital had no connection with the Winter Medical Group. The owner of the hospital was also from a different province.

The person who conducted the interview was the same manager I had contacted before, and after seeing her name tag, I addressed her as Heidi Matthews.

I retrieved my digital resume from my phone and handed it over to her.

She didn't ask me to introduce myself but instead looked through my resume.

"You seem to have a diverse skill set. Your major is in surgery, but there's also traditional medicine listed under your skills?"

"I transitioned from traditional medicine to modern medicine. During my university application, I originally applied for traditional medicine."

"As you know, traditional medicine is often associated with age. Combined with the fact that fewer people nowadays are interested in it, it has become a niche field."

The fast pace of modern life and the preference for modern medicine by most people were the reasons why traditional medicine had lost its appeal.

This was also one of the reasons why modern medicine could dominate most of the domestic market.

I used bloodletting therapy from the traditional medicine method, which involved acupuncture and bloodletting, to save the elderly man this morning.

Traditional medicine was a skill passed down from our ancestors, and its existence for thousands of years was not without reason.

"Do you have a traditional medicine certificate?"

"Yes, of course!" I took out the certificate from my purse. I usually carried these documents with me, and now it was the perfect opportunity to use them.

After examining my credentials, Heidi nodded approvingly and seemed quite satisfied.

"You have such diverse skills and even studied abroad. Why would you choose a small-scale hospital like ours?"

I didn't know how to answer her question; there seemed to be a trap lying in wait. It felt like she was praising me, but her words also seemed a bit probing.

"You're too kind, Heidi. Your hospital has made a name for itself in Monreso, and that's a

testament to your strength. There's a saying that fine fowl perches only on a fine tree, right?"

My response struck a chord with Heidi, and she nodded contentedly.

"Excellent! Your qualifications meet our requirements perfectly. I hope that we can progress together in our future collaboration. I also hope that you can help our hospital grow."

She stood up and shook my hand.

I didn't expect it to go so smoothly.

I didn't even need to ask about the salary and benefits as the advertisement covered that. It should be followed as per the advertisement.

Afterward, I had to sign a contract, and if it wasn't as I hoped, I could just leave.

That day, Heidi arranged for me to work in the dermatology department, which she felt was suitable for me.

She was quite straightforward in her work style. After confirming my employment, she explained my job responsibilities and plans clearly.

I didn't need to worry about anything.

"Miss Landon, you can leave after completing the entry procedures. Let me know when you're available to start, and I'll arrange for you to assist the head physician in the clinic to get familiar with your position."

"Thank you for your help, Heidi!"

After a brief exchange, I went to the Human Resources Department to complete the entry procedures.

To integrate into the team quickly, I went to the department and greeted the other doctors and nurses.

Everyone was very friendly.

However, the head physician didn't seem to show any emotions because of my arrival.

He was a man in his forties and looked very stern.

I heard from other doctors that he was particularly strict and prone to yelling at the slightest mistake.

So, I had to be careful and not get on his bad side.

In any case, the job matter was resolved smoothly, which relieved me of my worries.

Now, the only thing I looked forward to was the good news from Sean.

Once I had dealt with the tasks at hand, I could come to work.

With a job secured, my mood improved significantly. The next task was to find a place to rent.

I couldn't keep staying in a hotel. It was too expensive. Even the cheap ones cost tens per day and it made my heart ache.

So, I started searching for an apartment again.

While strolling through the streets, the annoying Ian called me.

“Robyn, where are you?”

“I...”

“Never mind. I don't care where you are. I expect you to appear in my office within half an hour.”

After speaking, he hung up the phone abruptly.

Damn it!

Who did he think he was, summoning me as he pleased? I was not someone he could order around, but what could I do? He had leverage over me.

I was helpless and anxious as I quickly hailed a cab and headed to the Winter Medical Group headquarters.

I arrived at Ian's office and saw him sitting on the couch while smoking a cigar leisurely.

When he saw me, he put out the cigar in the ashtray and walked straight toward me.

“Robyn, I've seen countless women, and I've never misjudged anyone. Yet, you always seem to defy my expectations.”

Hah. He finally realized that I wasn't like the other women around him. Did he think he

could easily read my mind?

Then, he changed his tone and asked, “Who were you with last night?”

I frowned as I was annoyed that he was still bothered by the lie I told him.

I calmly replied, “Mr. Winter, you urgently summoned me here just to ask who I was with last night?”

He seemed a bit unnatural and I could sense a hint of disappointment.

“Yes. It’s apparent what happened... I shouldn’t have wasted my time asking you.”

Ian seemed to have something hidden in his words, and I couldn’t understand what he was trying to say.

“Mr. Winter, you don’t seem like yourself, hesitating and beating around the bush.”

He gradually approached me while revealing that disgusting smirk. “Robyn, why bother?

Do you know that just an hour ago, Asco’s representative came and signed the land purchase contract directly?”

Huh?

I must have misheard.

Did Asco agree to sell the land to the Winter Medical Group? But I haven’t even met Timothy yet.

Could it be that Sean had already persuaded Timothy?

I was in disbelief!

Or perhaps Ian had some ulterior motive?

“Mr. Winter, I apologize if my words have offended you, but there’s no need to play such a big joke on me, right?”

He gradually approached me, and I stepped back until I was against the wall.

“Do you think I’m joking? Don’t you have any idea what you did?” He touched my head, and his eyes looked misty.

“But I haven’t done anything...” I tried to move away from him. He seemed to be getting a bit out of control and his mind was not clear.

Upon seeing me dodging, he became even more manic. He turned around and locked the office door.

Then, he rushed toward me and hugged me tightly.

He murmured, “Stop pretending. If you can give yourself to him, why can’t you give yourself to me?”

“Do you know, even though you’re as repugnant as that woman, I’ve been attracted to you since the first time I saw you...”

I felt a mix of despair and absurdity in my heart after hearing his words.

“Mr. Winter, have you been smoking too much and deprived of oxygen? When did I give myself to anyone?” As I shouted, I struggled to break free from his grasp.

He paid no attention to that and threw me on the couch.

Then, he pounced on me.

He started kissing my neck and kept trying to unbutton my clothes.

It looked like he was about to succeed...

Slap!

I landed a resounding slap on his face. It was even louder than the one I gave him last time.

He was surprised, but his eyes were now filled with anger as if he wanted to tear me apart.

However, I wouldn’t give him the chance. I looked him in the eye and said, “Mr. Winter, I don’t know why Asco suddenly came to sign the contract with you, but if you think I slept with Timothy to make it happen, you’re trampling on my dignity.”

The slap didn’t seem to wake him up, but my words seemed to bring him back to his senses.

Chapter 15 Ian Turns Gentle

Ian stopped his beast-like behavior and even regretted his reckless actions.

“I’m sorry, Miss Landon. It was impulsive of me. I hope I didn’t hurt you.”

He was sorry?

Was I hearing things?

He was actually apologizing? It was a rare sight!

“Miss Landon, please don’t take it to heart.” He looked sincere.

I didn’t give him a concussion with that slap, did I?

He seemed like a completely different person now as he spoke gently without being sarcastic.

I kept feeling like it was a trap...

“Well, since no major mistake was made, rest assured that I won’t pursue this matter.”

I was not that magnanimous, but if I insisted on confronting him, I would be the one at a disadvantage.

I chose to endure it for now until things calmed down. After all, he hadn’t caused me any substantial harm by stopping himself in time.

I couldn’t exactly report him for attempted harm, could I?

“Since Asco has agreed to sell the land to Winter Medical Group, I hope you will keep your promise.”

I had no idea what was going on with Asco, but it seemed to be related to Sean, as he managed to get Asco’s representatives to sign the land purchase contract with Winter Medical Group this afternoon.

It was clear that Sean played a role in this, which dragged me into the situation. I would have to ask him later about what was going on.

Now, I needed to urge Ian to fulfill his promise.

“All right. I will never break my word.”

Ian pulled out his phone and made a call. “Release the video evidence online and let the internet ghostwriters suppress public opinion. If this matter doesn’t make headlines tomorrow, you’ll regret it.”

As expected, with a little behind-the-scenes manipulation, online violence could ruin a person.

Ian was truly despicable in his methods.

“Mr. Winter, there’s no connection between us now that the matter is settled. Please refrain from bothering me in the future. I don’t want to implicate the people around me, and you shouldn’t use them to threaten me either.”

I didn’t want to involve the people around me, so I decided to cut off any lingering thoughts he might have.

“Miss Landon, I apologize for resorting to such despicable means to gain your attention. The first time I saw you, I remembered your gaze which was filled with hatred and disdain.”

Of course. How can someone like you lack self-awareness? You’ve done unforgivable things in the past, and now you can’t stand a gaze filled with resentment?

I didn’t argue or explain myself. I was afraid of accidentally revealing something.

“To be honest, the more you show that expression, the more I’m attracted by that kind of gaze, to the point where I can’t fall asleep at night. At night, your gaze appears in my mind and lingers endlessly when I close my eyes...”

What was this? Was he trying to confess?

Ian’s words were like sugared excrement. It was still disgusting.

“Mr. Winter, I’m not the kind of seventeen or eighteen-year-old naive girl anymore. Your affectionate confession doesn’t move me.”

He looked embarrassed, and it was quite clear that this was probably the first time in his life that he had spoken such cheesy words to a woman.

All the women around him were chasing after him, yet he was the one taking the initiative to confess to me.

Hah. What a joke...

I was secretly delighted in my heart. He was truly experiencing some hardships with me.

“Miss Landon, haven’t I humbled myself enough? There’s no woman in this world that I cannot get... You and I are alone together in a room today. If it were any other woman, things would have been done already. Do you think I would let her waste time with me here?”

I was puzzled. Logically speaking, I should have been at his mercy by now, with no way out. However, it seemed that he had some concerns or hesitations.

“Mr. Winter, I’m afraid lowering yourself is only self-deceiving. Not all women will fall for you just because you’ve lowered your status.”

I gave him another blow while making it clear that I would not be so easily moved.

“Okay then. Let’s wait and see. I told you, I enjoy the hunting process, and you are still my ultimate prey.”

I was speechless.

Maybe my words were too provocative, and he felt challenged rather than giving up.

My goodness. It seemed like I had given him even more motivation. What was that about? Was it more interesting when there was a challenge?

However, I truly had no feelings for him now.

“Ian, what about me then? If you consider her your ultimate prey, what am I in your eyes?”

I didn’t expect Eileen to overhear us.

She came in without any warning.

I wonder how long she had been standing outside.

Her eyes were filled with tears and she looked pitiful.

“Eileen, when did you come? What did you hear?” Ian seemed angry. Perhaps he was upset that her sudden appearance ruined his plans.

“Ian, tell me the truth. Have you fallen for Robyn?” Eileen pointed at me as she questioned Ian.

Upon facing her questioning, he didn’t panic like most men caught in such a situation.

He remained calm and looked even more imposing instead.

“Eileen, don’t I have the right to like someone?”

Wow! What a confident and reasonable response.

Eileen was dumbfounded. She couldn’t believe the man to whom she had opened her heart could say something so irresponsible in front of her.

“That day, she bumped into me in the restroom, and you didn’t stand up for me. What’s even worse is that you confidently claimed she was just a pawn for you... Pawn, my foot... You want her to be your queen, don’t you?” Eileen’s emotions grew more intense. Inwardly, I figured I was once his queen indeed.

In response to her hysterical accusations, Ian seemed to soften a bit.

“Eileen, don’t be unreasonable. If you think about it like that, aren’t all women your enemies?”

“My ‘like’ here refers to appreciating Miss Landon’s talents. Everyone knows how capable she is, and this time, it was her efforts that made Asco agree.”

His explanation was too far-fetched, and I couldn’t bear listening to it anymore. However, I remained silent while observing their argument from the side. It didn’t concern me much. After all, it was Ian who dragged me into this mess.

“Is that so?” Eileen asked dubiously.

“When have I lied to you?”

Yet Eileen persisted. “Ian, I don’t care. I can tell there’s something off from the way you look at her. I don’t want her to be your secretary. I can help you find someone else.”

That’s right! That’s right! I fully agree with Eileen. Please don’t keep me here.

I would be more than happy!

But Ian seemed hesitant.

“Miss Landon is a rare talent, and the group needs someone like her. If we drive her away, it will be a significant loss for us.”

I couldn’t believe how nicely he put it!

It sounded grand and noble, but in reality, he just wanted to keep me here. He was afraid that I might leave.

“Mr. Winter, I agree with Miss Keyes. To avoid any impact on your relationship, I think it’s best if I leave. I’m a doctor and I’m not suitable to work as a secretary. I won’t disturb you any longer. Also, Mr. Winter, women need to be cherished. Miss Keyes loves you so much, so you should treasure what you have in front of you.”

After saying my piece, I was ready to make my exit.

Chapter 16 Fortune Never Comes in Pairs, Misfortune in Waves

After walking straight out of the president’s office. I closed the door behind me and escaped in a hurry.

I was relieved that today’s incident was discovered by Eileen. This would surely make Ian behave himself a bit.

The way he treated me in the office today was enough to show that he had developed even more insane thoughts about me.

Anyway, Ian wouldn’t have the time to harass me with Eileen around.

My mood improved considerably after I thought about this.

So. I decided to call Sean and ask him out for dinner.

On one hand, I wanted to find out what was going on, and on the other hand, I wanted to celebrate not being controlled by Ian anymore.

However, what I didn’t expect was that just as I was about to leave for the appointment in the evening, Ian called me and said he also wanted to invite me to dinner and apologize in person.

As soon as the call connected, I heard his gentle and magnetic voice. “Miss Landon, I’ve reserved a top- notch restaurant and would like to invite you to dinner to apologize for today’s incident.”

Although I was a sucker for good voices, I regained much of my rationality as soon as I realized the voice belonged to Ian.

“It’s really unfortunate. I just made an appointment to have dinner with a friend, and I can’t cancel it. I’m sorry. Mr. Winter.”

I firmly rejected his invitation. Even if I hadn’t invited Sean, I wouldn’t go out to dinner with Ian. Who knew what cunning plans he might have in mind?

There was silence on the other end of the phone for a while.

Just as I was about to hang up the call, he began again, saying, “Miss Landon, regardless of what Mr. Holland promised you, I can give you twice as much whatever he can give you.”

This time, it was my turn to be silent. This guy was so suspicious of others. How did I not notice this

before?

What did he mean by “what Mr. Holland promised me?”

It did seem quite ridiculous, didn’t it? To think that I would be seen as so insignificant in his eyes.

“Mr. Winter, please stop making baseless speculations. I will not try to please a man just for a piece of

land.”

I had never even seen Timothy in person, so how could I be involved with him? Seriously, it was ridiculous to make such unfounded accusations and defame my character.

My tone was already quite harsh, but he acted as if he hadn't heard a word I said and threatened, “You are the woman I have set my sights on. Those who dare to meddle will suffer a painful price!”

“Are you out of your mind-” Before I could finish my sentence, Ian hung up the phone.

My good mood, which had just been restored, was shattered again by his call.

“Ian, are you insane?!” I couldn't help but curse out loud as I felt extremely upset.

The more I thought about it, the angrier I got. For a moment there, I had the urge to give him a call and reveal my identity.

However, I knew I wouldn't be able to outwit him when I considered it. If he couldn't get to me directly, he would use the people around me as leverage.

His methods were despicable and truly shameful.

I still had to think about my family.

After calming down my emotions, I headed to the appointment.

It felt like I was going on a date.

However, I had no interest in romantic relationships at the moment, especially since I had already divorced. Could one really pay no mind to such things?

Probably not. For better or worse, I had some lingering concerns about it.

Subsequently, I took a cab and went to the same fly-infested restaurant as last time.

Sean arrived early and was already happily eating his frog legs.

He had also ordered a plate of fried rice for me,

“I’ll say it in advance. If you make me eat frog legs again today, our friendship ends here.”

He chuckled, but he was too busy eating the frog legs to speak to me.

While he was eating, I dug a spoonful of fried rice into my mouth and asked him, “Sean, aren’t you curious why I suddenly invited you out for dinner?”

“Of course, I know!” he answered without hesitation and was straight to the point.

His direct answer suggested that he had taken care of the matter regarding the land.

In just a morning, he managed to help me resolve the matter smoothly. It really made me curious about his true identity.

“Sean, there’s something I want to ask you.”

He put down his fork and spoon, wiped his mouth with a tissue, and looked at me seriously.

I had to admit that he was quite attractive when he was not eating.

“You want to know how I managed to settle your matter so quickly?”

I nodded. “Mm.”

“Sure, I’ll tell you. Initially, several companies were competing for Asco’s land. The Winter Medical Group and the Landon Pharmaceutical Group were the most powerful competitors.”

When I heard him mention the Landon Pharmaceutical Group, my heart tightened.

Landon Pharmaceutical Group was my dad’s company. When I married Ian, I had already handed over the company to my sister to manage. Why was she trying to compete for this piece of land?

I had been away for so long. Could it be that Landon Pharmaceutical Group had already paid off all its

debts?

“Sean, please continue.”

“The situation is quite complicated. Mr. Winter once offended Mr. Holland, and the boss of Landon Pharmaceutical Group was willing to go to any lengths to obtain the land.”

What? Go to any lengths?

“So, what happened next?”

“Ahem... Mr. Holland couldn’t stand people using underhanded methods behind his back. If there’s competition, it should be fair and square.”

My heart sank when I heard this. So, I have ruined my sister’s plan.

“Underhanded methods? What do you mean?”

Sean shrugged. “I don’t know the specifics, but Mr. Holland will never allow such things to happen.”

I never expected Timothy to be such an honorable person. No wonder Ian couldn’t handle him.

Since playing dirty tricks didn’t work, Ian thought of involving an innocent rookie like me to deal with Timothy.

Hah... That guy is truly cunning. I underestimated him before, thinking he was trying to kill two birds with one stone, but he actually managed to wipe out an entire flock of birds with that one stone.

Indeed, that was a stone that stirred up a thousand waves.

“But, wasn’t what my ex-husband did also underhanded?”

“Well, that’s different. Your ex-husband knew how to use people effectively!”

I was speechless.

Use people effectively? Are you praising him or me?

“Plus, I spoke well of you in front of Mr. Holland, and he gladly agreed. It’s a win-win situation!”

He said it like a professional, but I couldn’t help but doubt it.

Everyone knew that Timothy and Ian had a feud, so if it was true, Timothy must be a very generous

person.

However, I didn't have the time to verify the truth right now. What was making me guilty was that I unintentionally messed up my sister's plan.

I felt really sorry because Landon Pharmaceutical Group had already faced a lot of difficulties in recent years, and this piece of land might have been essential for their future development.

It was so frustrating!

I would have to find some time to go back and check on things.

Suddenly, the fried rice in front of me seemed tasteless.

Before I could recover from my melancholic mood, a delicate hand suddenly reached out in front of me, picked up the plate of fried rice, and poured it over my head.

I couldn't dodge in time and ended up with a head full of fried rice.

"Why is it you again? Are you never satisfied?" Sean scolded while picking the fried rice off my head.

As I raised my head, I saw Eileen looking at me with a smug expression.

"Eileen, are you out of your mind?"

I really wanted to slap her.

"Am I out of my mind? Robyn, I think you're the one who's out of your mind. You already have a man. Why do you still try to seduce my man?"

Wow! She came to confront me.

"Eileen, watch your words, or else, don't blame me for not holding back today!"

However, she clearly wasn't paying attention to my words and even came closer to me step by step.

“Still trying to deny it? I will expose you in front of your man today.” She pointed at Sean beside me.

“Please stop referring to him as my man. I am still single!”

“Bah!” She spat at me, but I managed to dodge it. It would've landed on my face if I didn't.

Now, I was really angry. I swung my hand and gave her a big slap.

As soon as I slapped her, I was frightened by what I saw.

Her mouth and nose were now crooked and they were unable to return to their original positions.

It looked extremely terrifying.

Chapter 17 Eileen Is Not Simple

The palm print on my hand wasn't there for nothing. Slapping her didn't hurt at all, apart from a slight numbness in my palm.

“My nose... My mouth...”

Eileen's mouth was now crooked to the left, and she couldn't even get it back to its original position.

The people around us gathered as they stared at Eileen like she was some rare species.

Some busybodies took out their phones to secretly take photos and record videos, while some even uploaded the footage to social media platforms right away.

I didn't sympathize with her, nor did I try to stop anyone. I wasn't heartless, but she started the whole thing with her disrespectful remarks, and I had to teach her a lesson.

“Robyn, h-how dare you hit me? How dare you hit me in front of so many people? Just you wait! I'll remember this slap, and I'll repay you twice as hard!”

After uttering threats, she covered her crooked mouth and nose and squeezed out of the crowd.

I was no pushover, so I paid no attention to Eileen's threats of retaliation.

Sean helped pick off some rice grains from my hair, which had a lingering scent of fried rice.

“Your ex-husband has quite a unique taste. He's attracted to a woman like her?”

Ian's taste remained mysterious. I had seen him interact with all kinds of women before.

Eileen was probably the one who had been with him the longest.

“He must have his reasons. From what I know of him, he should have grown tired of Eileen long ago. It's been three years, and they're still together and even talking about marriage.”

”

Sean warned me thoughtfully, “You should keep an eye out. A woman who can stay by Mr. Winter's side for so long must have some background or something. Not to mention

she just threatened you, saying she'll repay you twice as hard. I'm really worried about your safety."

He looked quite serious.

"Surely she wouldn't... This is a lawful society. I don't believe she would dare to do anything illegal"

After seeing my nonchalant response, he shook his head and said, "Think about it carefully. How did she know you were coming here to have dinner with me? Either she followed you, or she was already staking out here, waiting for you. It couldn't be a coincidence, right?"

His words struck a chord with me. Normally, I wouldn't pay attention to whether someone was following

-me or not.

Last time, Sean followed me all the way to the hotel, and I didn't even notice it. Moreover, I had wondered how Eileen could suddenly appear out of nowhere today. It turned out she had planned this all along...

When did it start?

Could it be when I went to find Ian that day because of Jude's matter?

This woman was terrifying. Had she been on guard against me since that day?

She appeared gentle and weak on the surface, but behind the scenes, she was a scheming woman.

Indeed, if she didn't have any power or background, how could she have stayed by lan's side for three years?

As I carefully sorted out the situation, I felt a chill run down my spine.

“Whoa... Your analysis is giving me goosebumps.”

She openly targeted me without any fear but used covert tactics as well. To be honest, I couldn't guard against that.

“That's why you should always be vigilant and not assume that being in the right will protect you from others' provocation. I'll be your bodyguard for free and escort you back later. How about that?”

I didn't know why, but right after I took his advice to heart, the next second, I felt that he was scheming against me.

“It's fine, Sean. I haven't decided on a place to stay yet. I'll find a hotel to spend the night for now, and I'll go look for an apartment tomorrow morning.”

After the interview this afternoon, I had planned to find a place to rent, but lan delayed my plans.

“Do you need my help?”

“No. It's fine. I can handle it myself. You've already done enough for me. I can handle such small matters myself.”

After seeing me repeatedly refuse, Sean didn't insist.

With his intelligence, he could probably guess my thoughts. Every favor he helped me with required me to repay him at an even greater cost.

“All right then. If you need anything, just ask. You’ve regarded me as your brother, right?” He smiled at me.

It had been a long time since I had seen such a smile without any ulterior motives. It was very pure and amiable.

Even though we had only known each other for a short time, his smile gave me a feeling that I didn’t need to be on guard.

“Okay, Sean. If I need your help, I won’t hesitate to ask

After saying that, I left on the pretext of needing to clean up. “I smell like fried rice and have oil all over my hair. I’m going to find a hotel to take a shower. I’m sorry that you had to witness this today.”

Sean shook his head and did not mind. “Go ahead. I won’t accompany you. Send me a message after you’re done cleaning up.”

“Sure.”

With Sean around, I felt the warmth of having a family member.

Perhaps it was because I’d spent most of my time alone these past few years. Now that I suddenly encountered someone like him, it was a different kind of feeling.

As our relationship took a step further, Sean started inviting me to the movies and even wanted to book my time for the next few days.

I politely declined, and I didn’t inform him about the places I was looking to rent and work. It was not that I was suspicious of him, but I wanted to avoid unnecessary trouble. For now, I didn’t want to consider personal matters too much, as frequent interactions

might not be good for both of us. Also, I couldn't have thirty meals with him every day; at least, we needed to space them out by a day or two.

The next day, I went alone to find an apartment to share with others. It was located in the suburbs, and though the transportation was relatively convenient, the main advantage was the quiet surroundings. At least, Ian and Eileen wouldn't know my whereabouts when they wanted to bother me.

In any case, I needed to keep everything low-key. I didn't even post anything on my social media. I refused to believe that they could find me if I vanished from the world.

Moreover, the apartment's environment was not bad. Apart from it not being very spacious, everything else was decent enough.

So, I paid three months' rent and moved in temporarily.

My housemate was a girl. She was a bit younger than me, and coincidentally, she was also studying medicine. Remarkably, her specialization was traditional medicine. I felt glad about this.

Nowadays, most young people studying medicine didn't choose the traditional medicine major, especially female students.

Back when I chose to study traditional medicine, there were very few people interested in it as well.

Since we weren't familiar, I didn't talk to her that much. For the time being, I only knew her name was Lila Taylor.

These days, I had been busy tidying up the room, and no one disturbed me. Apart from Sean occasionally sending me messages, my phone had remained mostly silent.

I hadn't even inquired about Jude's situation, as Ian seemed to be keeping his word, and the controversy over Jude accepting money from patients had subsided. Some video evidence was released which proved his innocence.

Thus, I didn't ask about it, and Jude didn't contact me either. So, I didn't want to disturb him.

On the third day, Heidi called me.

"Miss Landon, have you made arrangements yet? Can you report for duty?"

Delaying too much wasn't good, so after a moment's thought, I replied, "I'll report for duty early tomorrow morning."

I had settled the accommodation, and Jude's matter had subsided. I hadn't had any disturbances from Ian and Eileen these days either.

The work issue should be 'settled as well.

Chapter 18 Head-on Confrontation

Due to the distance between the rented apartment and the hospital, I had to take a bus and then transfer to the subway. To make sure I wouldn't be late and leave a bad impression on the superiors at the hospital, I woke up at 6.30AM.

After finishing my preparations, I left the apartment at 7.00AM, just in time to catch the first bus.

The scenic view along the way helped to dispel my drowsiness from waking up early.

After enjoying the suburban scenery for about half an hour, I arrived at the subway station for a transfer.

During rush hour, the subway station was crowded with people.

Another half an hour passed, and it was past 8.00AM when I arrived at the hospital. I still had more than twenty minutes before my work started at 8.30AM.

Heidi was already waiting at the hospital.

“This week, you’ll be working with Dr. Kanner in the clinic, and next week, we’ll arrange for you to work independently.”

“Okay. Thank you, Heidi!”

After Heidi left, I entered the specialist consultation room.

“Hello, Dr. Kanner. I’m new here, and my name is Robyn Landon. I’d highly appreciate your kind guidance!”

Dr. Kanner glanced at me and continued typing something on the computer. He paid no attention to my

presence.

I shrugged my shoulders and didn’t mind it. After all, he was just the head physician, and there was no need to be so arrogant.

I put on the laboratory coat that Heidi gave me, wore my work badge, and sat in front of the computer across from Dr. Kanner.

He didn’t say a word and completely ignored my presence.

It wasn’t until 8.30AM when many patients were waiting outside the consultation room that he finally started calling patients in..

As he called the first patient, two people entered the room-a mother with a child.

The child had some rashes on his hands, and I craned my neck to take a look.

It wasn't too serious as it was just ordinary rashes that could be treated with some ointment.

After casually asking a few questions to the parent, Dr. Kanner started typing on the computer.

A minute later, a prescription came out of the printer.

Finally, he spoke to me. "Take the patient to get the medication!"

I took the printed prescription from the printer and was stunned. It was filled with antibiotics, anti-

inflammatory drugs, and various creams for treating the rashes.

It was a dense list of medications.

"What are you standing there for? Hurry up. There are still many patients waiting!"

"Ah, okay, Dr. Kanner. I'll go now."

So, I quickly took the prescription and accompanied the patient to get the medication.

I was puzzled as to why I had to personally accompany the patient to get the medication when usually patients just took the prescription to the pharmacy themselves to pay and get the medicine.

I didn't think too much about it and just went along with the patient to the pharmacy.

After paying for the medication, I saw the child's mother looking displeased as she muttered quietly, "If I'm not seeing any improvement after taking so many medicines and spending so much money, you can expect a complaint from me."

Although she spoke in a low voice, I was close enough to hear her.

Now I understood why Dr. Kanner wanted me to bring the patient to get the medication. He was afraid that the patient might run away without buying the prescribed drugs.

Instead of getting the prescribed medications from the hospital pharmacy, patients would sometimes go to another place to buy them or simply choose not to purchase them at all after visiting a hospital and receiving a prescription from a doctor.

Back in the consultation room, Dr. Kanner wrote another prescription for me to bring the patient to the pharmacy again, and it was also filled with a long list of medications.

Clearly, my role was to supervise and prevent the patients from running away with the prescription.

"All right, Dr. Kanner. I agreed verbally, and after leaving the consultation room, I checked the contents of the prescription.

This patient was a student, and it seemed that her financial situation was quite tight. She pleaded with me. "Doctor, can you give me the prescription? I'll pay for it myself..."

She avoided eye contact for fear I would refuse.

After considering for a moment, I took out a pen and crossed out some unnecessary medications on the prescription.

"Little girl, tell the pharmacy that you don't need the ones I crossed out, but make sure to follow the instructions for the remaining medications after you get them."

After saying that, I handed the prescription back to her

After the young girl read it, her furrowed brow relaxed. “Thank you, Doctor. Thank you so much!”

It was just a simple illness. There was no need to prescribe redundant medications.

“You’re welcome. Go ahead and get your medication.”

The young girl then took the prescription and went to the pharmacy to pay.

For the following patients, I did the same thing-I looked through the prescriptions and crossed out any unnecessary medications.

When it was time to leave work, I prepared to leave, but Dr. Kanner called for an impromptu department meeting.

During the meeting, I didn’t need to introduce myself since everyone had already seen me.

Dr. Kanner first briefed us on the work arrangements this week and important points to note, and then he started going off script.

“Today is the darkest day since I became the head physician. Do you all know why?”

The meeting room fell silent, and everyone was unsure of what was going on.

Without beating around the bush, he directed his attention to me. “To the newcomer, do you know why I called everyone for this impromptu meeting?”

I remained silent and just shook my head.

“I checked today’s financial statistics, and we haven’t reached one-third of the target!”

He slammed the table and it left the doctors too afraid to even breathe.

I knew exactly what was happening-Dr. Kanner was going to blame me for this.

“Do you have anything to say? What’s going on? Are you deliberately trying to ruin our revenues?”

As expected, what others said about Dr. Kanner was true-he wasn’t an easy person to deal with. He was always quick to dismiss people who interfered with his earnings.

I stood up and replied, “Dr. Kanner, you’re being too harsh. I just arrived today, and I haven’t taken any patients from you, nor have I taken any of your commissions. How could I be ruining your revenue?”

My straightforward response seemed to anger him further as his face darkened with fury.

“Don’t think just because you studied abroad, you’re superior to us. Let me tell you, since you’re here, you must abide by the rules. Do you understand?”

I didn’t fall for his intimidation. “I don’t think I’m superior to anyone. If you think I inappropriately reduced the number of prescribed medications today. I apologize for that, but my conscience is clear. Do we need to prescribe so many random medications for such a simple illness?”

The other doctors were shocked by my boldness. They did not expect that I dared to confront Dr. Kanner directly on my first day.

Frustrated by my logical response, Dr. Kanner tried to pressure me. “Are you the head physician, or am I? Do I need your approval to prescribe medications?”

He was putting on airs, and this wasn’t a valid excuse for his excessive prescriptions.

Dr. Kanner, I don't mean to confront you deliberately, nor do I want to take away anyone's earnings. I just don't want to see patients wasting their money."

He walked up to me with a strange expression. "What? Youngsters like you want to reform the workplace now? Even the director of the hospital needs to show me some respect. Who do you think you are?"

His words were somewhat true. Today, his clinic was packed with patients. It was indeed contributing significantly to the hospital's revenue.

"Brat, you dare challenge me? You're too naive. Trust me when I say I can get you fired with just one word."

At first, I thought I could just let it go, but the fact that someone like him could still work as a doctor made me furious.

"Dr. Kanner, if that's how you want to put it, let's make a bet. Let's see who gets fired first. You or me. What do you say?"

Chapter 19 Chain Reaction

Dr. Kanner probably did not expect an ordinary doctor to openly challenge him.

Of course, I did not spout empty words or underestimate him since my purpose was simply to uphold the dignity of our profession as doctors.

Doctor-patient relationships had been delicate in recent years, and it led to irreversible clashes between the two groups.

Since I had come to work here, I couldn't allow such incidents to happen on my watch.

If he did not want me to accompany the patient to pay for their medication, I would not have minded, let alone obstruct his financial interests.

I felt like I tainted this profession when I took on that task, so I had to say something!

“Dr. Kanner, when we ordinary doctors address you as a director out of respect, it is not to let you act high and mighty. Don’t judge me by my age; I might even be more knowledgeable on certain things than you. As for your so-called experiences, it shouldn’t serve as a means for you to amass wealth unscrupulously.”

1. Robyn Landon, could not bear it anymore; it wasn’t like me to act forbearing as a newcomer! If you mess with me and expect me to keep quiet about it, well, you’ve picked the wrong person to mess with!

“When I was studying medicine, you were probably still in your mother’s womb. Do you think you can lecture me after spending a few days in a foreign medical school?”

I responded disdainfully, “Dr. Kanner. I do not disrespect your qualifications. I simply can’t stand your character.”

My words seemed to strike a nerve, and he was so angry that his voice trembled. “Who do you think your are? How dare you question my integrity?”

He was truly impotent with rage, and just a few words made him lose his composure.

What a waste of my after-working hours with this impromptu meeting!

Disregarding the admiring gazes of others and Dr. Kanner’s resentful stare, I took off my white coat and left nonchalantly.

As I closed the door of the meeting room, I heard Dr. Kanner yelling, “Robyn Landon, do can still work in this hospital tomorrow? I will make you pay for this!”

you think

you

I shook my head, thinking to myself, Working in the same place as him? He's not even worthy of sharing my last

name!

Leaving the hospital felt refreshing, and I finally felt liberated after a day of suppression.

-Although I now had a grudge against Dr. Kanner, I couldn't care less. Similarly, I would not let Ian or

Eileen's opinions weigh on me either.

Without dwelling on it too much, all I wanted was to go home. I squeezed onto the subway and switched to a bus heading to the suburbs after half an hour.

I chose a seat at the back, so I could comfortably play with my phone without worrying about giving up

my seat.

I spent the day running up and down the hospital floors and barely had time to check my phone.

Now, it was time to catch up on some videos.

As soon as I opened the app, a familiar video caught my eye.

It was the video that captured the intense moment when I hit Eileen, and it was now circulating online and spreading like wildfire across the internet!

The incident was still causing a stir.

Some people criticized me for being too brutal and causing Eileen's injuries while others berated the Winter Group's Plastic Surgery Institute.

I quickly searched for information about the Winter Group's Plastic Surgery Institute.

To my surprise, the latest headlines were about some negative aspects of the institution,

Three years ago, when Eileen was crowned the beauty pageant champion, she became the walking advertisement for the Winter Group's Plastic Surgery Institute.

It had caused quite a sensation at the time, but all of this was just a business strategy orchestrated by Ian.

As of today, if it weren't for the video showing the aftermath of my altercation with Eileen, many of those women who had undergone plastic surgery at the Winter Group's Plastic Surgery Institute would not dare to openly challenge them.

Many consumers who went under the knife at the Winter Group's Plastic Surgery Institute felt deceived, for their actual skills were far from what they had advertised. Moreover, there were numerous side effects, with some people having their appearances completely ruined!

The consumers united to denounce the Winter Group's Plastic Surgery Institute.

"This is a disaster..." I murmured. I was not worried about whether the institution would survive; I was more concerned that this whole thing had started because of me, and Ian might just tear me apart.

The video that was casually uploaded had unexpectedly caused a huge uproar, and it could potentially spell doom for the Winter Group's Plastic Surgery Institute.

As I was pondering what to do, Ian called me.

After nervously hanging up the first call, I hesitated for a moment when he rang again. Then, I composed myself, adjusted my tone, and answered as if nothing had happened.

“Mr. Winter, is there anything I can help you with?”

“You are the one who messed up Eileen’s face, right?” Ian’s deep voice came from the other end of the line.

“Uh... Mr. Winter, please don’t believe those fabricated videos circulating online. Eileen was the one who made disrespectful remarks first, and I couldn’t help but react. I heard Ian emit a brief laugh as he received my explanation-like response.

Then, he continued, “Just admit it. With the video circulating online and your confession just now, do you believe I won’t sue you in court?”

Ah! As soon as I heard that, I froze. Did he just catch me by the tail?

“Mr. Winter, please listen to my explanation. Eileen was the one-”

“I don’t want to hear your explanation!” Ian interrupted me, silencing me at once.

“Listen carefully, this incident has triggered a series of events. Now, the Winter Group’s Plastic Surgery Institute is facing multiple lawsuits. Do you think I’ll spare you?”

His words left me in silence.

The way Ian spoke did not make me think that he cared much about the plastic surgery institute. Instead, it only made me realize he was looking for an opportunity to come after me.

“Mr. Winter, this whole thing was purely an accident. You should go after those who spread the videos if you want to hold someone accountable. You shouldn’t be targeting me, right?”

I felt truly exasperated. What did I have to do with this whole incident? I was the victim, for goodness’

sake.

He was the one who started it; Eileen would not have been jealous if he had not been pestering me.

She would not have bothered me, and I would not have lost control and slapped her, but there was no point in defending myself now since he had the power to take me to court.

I’m currently at the top-notch restaurant where I booked dinner for us earlier.” Ian continued, “I want to see you in person before 8.00PM.”

With that, Ian hung up the phone.

I was torn about whether to meet him. What if it was a trap set up by Eileen?

It was unlikely since he did not seem like he would stick his neck out for her. If he wanted to help her, he would have done so during the confrontation at the restroom the other day.

I checked the time, and it was already 7.00PM. I decided to go, for if I didn’t, it might anger him further.

Sigh, what a dilemma. Why was I so unlucky?

As the bus arrived at the next stop, I quickly got off and hailed a cab to head to the city center.

I rushed to the restaurant Ian mentioned.

The interior of this upscale restaurant was comparable to a royal palace.

Even just a glance could make an ordinary person feel extravagant, not to mention dining inside.

Ian had reserved the entire restaurant, and the servers tonight were all assigned to serve only our table.

A long, red carpet was laid out from the entrance with hostesses bowing slightly as I walked in.

This was fit for a princess.

When Ian emerged from the restaurant, he was wearing a handsome black suit. However, his tie was still the one I bought for him three years ago on his birthday.

Chapter 20 Just Playing His Game

Ian walked straight up to me. He fixed his gaze on me, and it was filled with deep affection.

Before I could say anything, he held my hand firmly.

His palm felt cold, and given my professional nature, I could not help but notice he had a chill within his body.

Coupled with his pale complexion, I became even more convinced that he was under the weather.

Ahem. Anyway, I had no idea why he suddenly held my hand. Eileen would definitely come looking for trouble if she found out about this.

I followed him to the restaurant.

Once we arrived at a table, he pulled out a chair for me.

“Are you feeling hungry?” Ian asked. “I’ve already asked them to bring the dishes.”

I nodded slightly. Indeed, I was rather hungry. Dr. Kanner had too many patients for me to attend to, and I did not even take a break at noon.

“Mr. Winter, aren’t you worried about Eileen causing trouble for you by inviting me to dinner alone?”

Ian merely smiled, avoiding my question. “Waiter, bring me a bottle of Lafite, please!”

The waiter promptly brought out a pre-chilled bottle of Lafite.

I caught a whiff of a refreshing and intoxicating fragrance as soon as it was opened.

“Miss Landon, allow me to toast you. Take it as an apology for my reckless behavior earlier.” He downed more than half a glass of wine in one gulp.

He clapped his hands after finishing the first glass.

Twenty pretty women dressed in maid outfits promptly appeared, each carrying a dish.

“I’m not sure what you like to eat, but these dishes are their specialties. I’ve ordered a bit of everything for

you to try.”

I was dumbfounded by the extravagance of having so many people serving a single meal. How could I possibly finish all these dishes?

“Mr. Winter, this is too much. Honestly speaking, I’d be satisfied with just a plate of fried rice. I really enjoy eating fried rice.”

My words elicited laughter from the beautiful women around us.

“Why are you all laughing? Didn’t you hear Miss Landon saying she wants to have fried rice?”

The restaurant manager came over, bowing as he said, “I apologize, Mr. Winter. We don’t serve regular fried rice here. It is not up to our standard of cuisine –

“Then, make an upscale version of fried rice!” Ian interrupted impatiently.

The restaurant manager felt somewhat awkward, but he dared not defy Ian’s words. “Of course, right away. I’ll make the necessary arrangements at once.”

As soon as he finished speaking, he rushed to the kitchen.

I felt a bit embarrassed. “Mr. Winter, please don’t give them a hard time.”

“It’s fine. You don’t need to speak up for them. This restaurant will soon belong to the Winter Group

anyway.”

His arrogant demeanor truly rubbed me the wrong way. It was not that I had any resentment toward the wealthy, but I simply couldn’t stand his attitude.

I changed the topic. “Mr. Winter, I apologize for the trouble caused to Eileen. I didn’t anticipate that it would bring such a negative impact to the Winter Group.

He seemed reluctant to discuss this. “Miss Landon, you’re overthinking things. Such trivial matters are of no concern to me. As for Eileen, I warned her not to cause trouble for you, but she wouldn’t listen, and now, she’s just reaping what she sowed.”

“I’m really sorry. I never intended to interfere in your relationship-” Before I could finish my sentence, Ian waved his hand, interrupting me. At the same time, he gestured for me to clink glasses with him.

“Cheers!” I took a small sip, and the rich, fruity flavor filled my tastebuds with distinct layers.

If it were not for the alcoholic taste, I would have thought it was just a regular beverage.

I was not a drinker. I was not very knowledgeable about alcohol, but I knew it tasted decent.

Seeing my reaction, Ian encouraged me to continue drinking.

Soon enough, a glass of Lafite went down my throat.

Unaware of the wine’s intoxicating nature, I continued to enjoy its deliciousness.

With just one glass, my face started to feel warm.

Ian noticed my flushed face, and his eyes lit up. “Miss Landon, you are truly stunning!”

Stunning? He used to dislike my appearance, I thought.

I asked, “Mr. Winter, I am just an ordinary woman. How could I be worthy of your attention?”

“It’s because you are so ordinary that I can’t forget about you. You irritate me, yet I want to conquer you.” he replied ambiguously. If it were any other woman, they would have probably fallen for it.

The romantic atmosphere before me might have been enchanting, but it was wasted on me. I felt nothing

at all.

I wondered how many women he had charmed with this tactic.

Just as I was trying to figure out how to respond, the restaurant manager brought a plate of fried rice.

The restaurant manager explained. “Miss Landon, this is our Golden Fried Rice. It was specially prepared for you by our kitchen.

I glanced at it. Indeed, it was golden and distinct with some kind of garnish on it.

Ian glanced at it and remarked, “Does adding the word ‘golden’ make it upscale?”

The restaurant manager hurriedly explained, “The rice grains are golden because each grain is coated with crab roe, and it’s also flavored with golden abalone sauce...”

“Alright, that’s enough!” Ian waved his hand impatiently to dismiss the restaurant manager.

He then looked at me, saying. “Enjoy it, Miss Landon. I’m not sure if this fried rice suits your taste. I’ll have them shut down the kitchen if it doesn’t.”

I quickly took a bite and said, “It’s delicious! It tastes much better than any fried rice I’ve had elsewhere.”

This guy could pull off anything. I was already feeling embarrassed, and if he were to shut down the kitchen because of my preferences, I would feel even more guilty.

“As long as you like it. Here, let’s pair the fried rice with some red wine. Have another drink!” He signaled the waiter.

The waiter came over to pour more wine for me.

This time, I noticed the waiter had poured a bit more than necessary.

“Raise your glass, Miss Landon.”

“Sure, cheers!”

Ian finished his glass in one gulp while I took a small sip.

However, even with just one small sip. I could tell something was off about the taste.

The taste was somewhat similar to the previous wine, but it was definitely stronger.

I thought it might be because of the fried rice, so I did not dwell on it too much.

Halfway through the meal, I began to realize something was wrong.

My head felt dizzy, and my vision seemed blurry.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Winter. It’s too warm in here. I’d like to go to the restroom to wash my face.”

As I looked at Ian, his eyes roamed over me boldly.

“Come, take Miss Landon to the restroom,” Ian instructed the waitress nearby to escort me to the restroom.

I felt dizzy with my body unsteady as I stood up, but thankfully, I was still conscious.

I just could-not control my body very well.

As the waitress helped me up, I took my purse with me and followed her unsteadily.

After a short while, I noticed something amiss. “Hey, aren’t we heading to the restroom?”

The waitress replied, “The restroom is under maintenance today. I’ll take you to one of our guest rooms

where there’s a restroom inside.”

She looked harmless, and it did not seem like she was lying, so I went along with her assistance to the guest room.

The guest room was spacious and well-furnished with a large bathtub placed next to the floor-to-ceiling window. The large bathtub was big enough for two people.

When I entered the restroom to wash my face, the waitress left and locked the door from the outside.

The alcohol was getting to me, and I felt my eyelids drooping.

However, I had no urge to vomit.

Oh no! This guy intentionally drugged my alcohol. He must have sinister intentions, I thought.

With that realization, I decided to try to escape while still somewhat conscious.

However, the door would not open no matter how hard I twisted the doorknob.

I figured out the lock must have been specially installed since it was a digital lock. There was no way I could open it without a hotel key card.

Jan Winter, I've fallen for your tricks again! I cursed him in my heart for resorting to such despicable tricks.