Chapter 276 Melanie's Schemes

Looking at her, he asked once more, "What did you tell Kate when Olivia launched her business?"

Melanie replied in a soft voice, "I-I have forgotten."

Nathan merely said calmly, "Think!"

However, Melanie was taken aback that tears rolled down her cheeks again. "Nate, I really know my mistakes now!" she exclaimed guiltily.

However, Nathan merely looked at her coldly. "Cut the crap. Do you think it's still useful right now?"

Melanie replied, "I honestly don't remember anymore. It's been so long! I saw that she kept looking at us, and then she drank a lot of alcohol to drown her sorrows, so I guessed that our intimacy had agitated her. Then, in the washroom, I tested her slightly."

Seeing that she went silent again, Nathan spoke callously, "I asked you what you told her. Did you not understand me?"

Melanie remained quiet. How should I tell him? Can those words be spoken out loud?

If I tell him everything, he will get even angrier.

When she was hesitating, a palm landed on her face, giving her a loud slap. Then, Nathan's cold voice rang again.

"Stop playing tricks with me."

Melanie immediately held her cheeks painfully as she tried to hold her tears back.

"I just told her that you were not interested in her and that you loved me. I asked her to stay away from you..."

"That's all?"

"T-That's all."

"You'd better think this through—if I find out that you are lying to me, you can't bear the consequences!"

Nathan's icy tone sounded like a demon from hell, causing Melanie to be so scared that she trembled. However, she was not sure if she was trembling because of the coldness due to her drenched clothes, or if it was because of fear.

"I-I said that we made love three times every night, and you kept going until I surrendered. I-I also said I loved the way you look in bed. I said that deliberately to agitate her."

Upon hearing that, Nathan suddenly choked. It was a feeling he couldn't really describe. Amidst the rage, he also felt disgusted as a surge of nausea shot through him. Putting aside Kate's feelings after hearing that—even though it was a compliment, he still felt extremely disgusted.

Then, he pulled Melanie's hair and knocked her head into the glove compartment in front of her.

The loud thuds were mixed with her groans for help. "Nate, I really know my mistakes now. Ahhh! Nate!"

After a long time, Nathan seemed to have grown tired, and he seemed to have had enough of it. He finally stopped his mechanical movements and pulled Melanie's hair so that her face was facing him.

The blood from her head and the tears on her face made her look very disheveled at this moment.

However, instead of sympathy, Nathan only felt disgust for her.

"You are too f\*cking disgusting! Who has slept with you? Who wants to f\*ck you three times a night? You are pretty good at making up stories, huh? Aren't you even worried that I would be disgusted by you?"

The pain Melanie felt when he pulled her hair was too much, so she could only beg for his forgiveness. "Nate, I was just bragging at that time. It wasn't true; I just said that to make Kate angry."

Upon hearing that, Nathan became even angrier. Pulling her hair, he knocked her head to the front once more.

"You have no right to come looking for trouble! So many of my ex-girlfriends have to impress her. But look at you! You even picked a fight with her using such a disgusting method! I must have been blind to have you as my girlfriend!"

His attacks were not hesitant at all, making Melanie dizzy from that. She was in a mess, with blood splattered all over her.

She believed that if Nathan kept going, she would die.

At this moment, she suddenly understood something.

Nathan actually cares about Kate a lot, and he probably hasn't realized it himself.

He hasn't said anything about me seducing Eugene and George, but he kept asking about Kate.

Chapter 277 What the Hell Have I Done?

"Nate, please forgive me. I can explain! I can explain to Kate that we haven't done anything."

Upon hearing that, Nathan finally stopped.

It was at this moment that he finally realized that he was actually most worried that Kate would think that Melanie was telling the truth.

On top of that, he wasn't really angry with Kate because of the fight. It was simply because Kate suddenly ignored him for nothing.

For the dinner tonight, he had planned to bring Melanie over, but it was only because he was worried that Kate might bring her boyfriend over. If he went alone, he would feel embarrassed, as if he had lost the fight between them.

He didn't care if he really loved Melanie. More importantly, he wanted to let Kate know that he was not affected when she ignored him.

Even he himself had no idea since when he had started caring about her so much.

However, he had been dating another girl, and she also had a boyfriend. Hence, it had never crossed his mind that Kate actually loved him.

In that case, all her abnormal behaviors were understandable!

After my girlfriend's vicious words, I also said many things that hurt her.

She has already given me face by not punching me!

I guess she is secretly looking down on me already. How could I have been this blind?

Looking at Melanie, a cold smile appeared on Nathan's lips. Even his voice sent chills down her spine. "Call her to explain everything now. If you can't do that, you don't have to come home tonight."

Crying, Melanie quickly nodded and fumbled through her bag to take her phone out to call Kate.

After a few rings, the call was picked up. "Hello?"

Her voice sounded slightly muffled, as if she had just been crying.

Nathan suddenly felt hurt. I want to punch myself to death!

"Katie..." Melanie burst into tears immediately. "I'm sorry. Actually what I've told you is not true at all—"

Kate had never expected that Melanie would call her. Immediately, she braced herself like a cat preparing for a battle as all her hair stood on their ends.

"Hah! Why did you suddenly apologize? Or have you changed tactics? Don't worry; it's none of my business no matter what you guys are up to from now onward, as long as you don't show up in front of me. Otherwise, I'll hit you each time I see you! Also, stop calling me. I don't want to hear your voice."

"Katie... Hello? Katie?" Melanie yelled frantically, but the call was hung up.

She looked at Nathan tentatively. "Nate, Katie has hung up."

Nathan narrowed his eyes. "I. Asked. You. To. Explain. Everything. To. Her."

Having no other choice, Melanie tried calling again.

However, after one ring, Kate hung up immediately. It was apparent that she had blocked her number.

"Nate, can I borrow your phone? Katie seems to have blocked my number," she spoke tentatively.

Nathan threw his phone to her and warned her, "Get straight to the point."

Melanie quickly replied, "Got it."

However, after Nathan's number called her, the phone kept ringing. She didn't hang up, nor did she block his number.

The call dropped automatically.

Nathan smiled mockingly.

This is the Kate I know. No matter how harsh she is, she won't ever not pick up my phone.

She must be really sad now.

Nathan thought that he loved Melanie. However, after knowing that she had been looking for backups while dating him, he also felt similar disgust as Kate, apart from feeling slightly angry.

Instead, guilt, remorse, and fear had swept him off his feet. His heart still hurt because of this.

What the hell have I done?

## Chapter 278 Exhausted After Seven Years

Maybe he did not like Melanie after all, but she gave him a different feeling because she was good at coaxing and soothing others. She had a sweet mouth, and so he would always have the feeling that he was needed when he was with her.

On the other hand, Kate would pinch him the moment they met. In fact, she would even hit him, and they just didn't seem like a couple. But why do I have the urge to cry when I hear the beeping sound over the phone? I feel that... I have truly lost her...

On the other side, Kate was staring at the familiar name across her phone screen. Her gaze was numb and hollow, and she didn't want to answer the phone call. During this period, she was becoming more and more repulsed by his phone calls after each time. What does he want this time? Is he going to apologize?

I don't need that. Is he planning to explain himself? That's not important either. I've been in love with him for seven years, and I've seen him having countless women by his side, one after another. I've been trying to convince myself that he will notice how wonderful I am one day.

However, today... I just honestly do not want to hold onto him anymore. I'm exhausted. I wonder if people become unreasonable with age. He has had girlfriends in the past, but I had always felt that he was just fooling around. I'm guessing he is really in love with Melanie, huh?

The situation is just like the touchstone of his true state of mind. If it weren't for Melanie, I'd still be daydreaming about him. So what if we share a seven-year-long relationship? It collapsed at the first blow in front of his girlfriend!

The phone rang for the longest time, and it went on until it exhausted her battery, and her phone switched off automatically! The room finally quietened down.

Kate lay on the bed while having her eyes shut. Tears rolled down her tightly-shut eyes, and they trickled across the bridge of her nose before soaking into her pillow. Her eyelids were so swollen that they looked like walnuts within her eye sockets. Nevertheless, her memories were like upturned hooks. A gentle tug would have ripped her skin and flesh off her bones!

She wasn't sure when she fell asleep, but she realized that the constant doorbell woke her. Kate listened to it for some time and realized that it was indeed her house doorbell. Hence, she got out of the bed to open the door.

She was surprised that someone would drop by so early in the morning. Upon looking through the peephole, she saw that it was Jasper. She ran her fingers through her hair before opening the door. Shocked, she asked him, "Why are you here?"

Jasper seemed anxious. "I phoned you, but my calls did not get through, so I thought something happened to you."

Kate was slightly embarrassed. "I forgot to charge my phone."

Jasper stared at her and regarded her carefully. "What happened to you? Why were you crying?"

Kate touched her face while trying to brush it off by commenting vaguely, "Nothing happened. Why were you looking for me?"

Jasper explained, "I come bearing good news. Haven't you been trying to invite Jane Hays to shoot the cover for your watch? I have a friend who knows her, and it turns out Jane is currently in Mastar. She promised to give us two days for the photoshoot, and it's free-of-charge. I was in a hurry to look for you; I was out of ideas, and so I had no choice but to come knocking on your door."

Kate was surprised when she heard that. "Are you saying that Jane Hays agreed?"

Jasper answered, "Mm-hmm, and it's free too. However, you might have to make a trip to Mastar with your shooting team."

Kate smiled. I might be disappointed in the love department, but succeeding financially more than makes up for it. "These are small matters. In that case, when are we leaving?"

"It's best to leave now because she is free tomorrow. We should grab the chance and arrive today, and we can start the photoshoot tomorrow. We'll even have enough time to rest!" Jasper suggested.

Kate agreed. "Sure, we can do that. Come in and wait for me for a while. I'll get changed!" Jasper grunted in acknowledgement.

Kate had always been pretty, and she usually wouldn't take long to dress up. However, she cried too much last night, and so she spent a lot of time on eye make-up today. After that, she packed a suitcase for herself. An hour had passed by the time she was done packing. She then broke the silence apologetically. "I'm sorry I took a while!"

Chapter 279 You Don't Owe Me Anything

"No worries; you are quite fast. Girls usually take at least two hours of preparation before leaving the house."

Kate teased him, "You seem to know women well!"

Jasper guffawed. "Haha, I'm alright. Anyway, my older sister takes at least two hours before leaving!"

Kate commented, "In that case, she must be a refined woman."

"I can't tell if she's refined or not, but she is rather vain!" Jasper remarked. Then, he took her suitcase from her.

Kate followed him out of the door. She locked the door and added while smiling at him, "Are there even girls who aren't vain these days?"

Jasper turned around to glance at her and grinned. "Well, you aren't vain."

Kate was dumbfounded when she heard that. Isn't he saying that I'm not a girl?

Do I truly look like a man?

"Are you criticizing me to my face? Do you still plan to cooperate with us?"

Jasper laughed while answering her, "Why are you in such a rush? I'm not done speaking."

The two entered the elevator while chatting along the way. Soon, the elevator shut its doors.

Jasper explained very casually, "Girls like you are truly beautiful; you aren't vain!"

Kate was rendered speechless when she heard that, but she also had to fight the urge to burst out laughing. Then, she snorted proudly. "Although it took you long enough to come up with an excuse, you managed it well anyway. I'd say you've passed the test somehow!"

Jasper acted as though he was scared witless. "I was terrified; thank you for not penalizing me for speaking slowly!"

Kate cackled loudly. "How was that slow? You were just exaggerating! Let me tell you; you have finally met someone who isn't calculative, like me. Have you watched this sketch before? It's a story about a man having a drink in the bar. The server asked him if he would like to open a bottle that cost 19,800. The man was so shocked when he heard it that he started stammering, 'You s-s-s...', as the server popped the bottle of alcohol open. Finally, the man blurted out the rest of the sentence, 'You shouldn't'."

Coincidentally, the elevator doors opened at the end of the story, and the two of them doubled over with laughter.

Jasper regarded her with loving tenderness. "Thank you for saving me 19,800!"

Kate laughed out loud, and she was just about to humor him when she saw a familiar figure from the corner of her eyes. His hair was messy, and he had a stubble. The figure was staring at them fixedly.

Kate's heart skipped a beat, and she felt her breath catch. We hadn't seen each other for a night, but he looks like a completely different person now.

Nathan did not sleep the entire night, but he didn't have the courage to meet Kate. Hence, he figured that he would wait for her downstairs, just so that he could see her the first thing when she got out of the building.

I didn't expect two people to show up. They are both leaving together early in the morning. Did they spend the night together?

His heart throbbed painfully, and he finally understood what Kate felt when she saw him together with Melanie.

I suppose she must have wanted Melanie dead. However, I was so protective over her at that time

Nathan stared at Katie while speaking tentatively, "Katie, I have something to say to you."

However, she took a step toward Jasper in silence. "Do we... have anything to discuss?"

Nathan answered her, "Mm-hmm, I have some things I need to speak to you about in private. I won't take too much of your time. You just have to give me ten minutes. I'll be done in ten minutes."

Strangely, he had a begging tone, and Kate's heart softened at that. She inhaled deeply while turning to look at Jasper. "Can you wait for me for a while?"

Jasper glanced at Nathan while nodding in response. "Sure, I'll wait for you in the car!"

With that, he walked away with the suitcase in his hands, and he made his way in the direction of his car.

Kate regarded Nathan. "What did you want to talk about?"

He closed his eyes slightly. "I'm sorry. I didn't know that you..."

Kate felt embarrassed for some reason when she heard that, but she maintained the last shred of her dignity. "No need for that. You don't owe me anything. Compared

to your girlfriend, it's only natural that she is more important than I am. I can't fault you for defending her. It's just that I don't think I can be like before."

Chapter 280 I Will Repay You

Upon hearing that, Nathan felt his heart throb in pain, and he explained hastily, "No, Katie, no. Deep down in my heart, you are much more important than she is. However, you have ignored me all along, and I've been feeling lost. I said many things without thinking them through, but it's not my intention to hurt you.

I just want you to pay attention to me, and I want you to treat me just like before. In fact, I'd be fine with it even if you were to hit or scold me. I just can't accept it when you ignore me! In all honesty, last night was mostly about taking revenge against you and not about defending Melanie.

I was taking revenge on you for acting strange around me with your sarcasm and pointed remarks during this period. However, I wasn't aware that Melanie said so many disgusting things..."

For some reason, Kate inhaled deeply, and she answered in a panic, "Stop speaking. If it's about that, I am aware of the truth. I do not blame you, and you don't have to explain repeatedly because I don't want to hear it!"

With that, she wanted to leave straight away.

Nathan then grabbed Kate, who struggled reflexively. She did not even bother disguising the disgust across her face.

Upon noticing that, he stood rooted to the spot suddenly. She most probably finds me disgusting, doesn't she?

"I've never laid a finger on her. She said all that just to anger you!"

Kate's lips curled into a smirk, and her gaze gleamed with disgust. "You don't have to inform me about matters between the two of you because I don't care at all how you two get along!"

"Katie, are you done?" Jasper called for her while standing beside the car.

She answered straight away, "Yeah, I'm done."

Nathan asked in a hurry, "Where are you two going?"

Kate answered, "Mastar!" She turned away immediately.

Nathan chased after her a few steps. "Is that your boyfriend?"

Kate stood rooted to the spot when she heard that. After a pause, she turned around to face him while hissing coldly, "Yes!"

"Oh," responded Nathan in a daze. He stared at her cold and distant back view while feeling his heart break into pieces.

I understand now that Kate is the only one I love. However, I've hurt her so much that she's leaving me.

At a country roadside, Melanie had a hand covering half her face, and her head was covered with blood. At a quick glance, she looked like the walking dead. She did not expect Nathan to be so ruthless. I can't believe he slashed a knife across my face, and he even threw me out here in the middle of nowhere.

Initially, she wanted to make a phone call, but her phone was out of battery.

She walked until she was exhausted and starving. However, there wasn't even a car in sight, and Melanie felt as if she might die anytime soon.

Just then, a car drove past, and she waved at it frantically while screaming at the top of her lungs, "Help! Help!"

Nevertheless, the car did not even slow down; instead, it sped past her.

She cursed in the direction of the car driving away. "Do you think you're great just because you have a car?!"

However, the car reversed unexpectedly.

Melanie calmed down immediately, and she stared at the car when it reversed all the way to stop beside her. The car window lowered, exposing a person who looked like a thug. He asked her defiantly, "Would you like to repeat yourself?"

Melanie bit her lower lip softly, and she bowed deeply at the man in the car. "I'm sorry. I was thrown out here last night, and my phone's battery is out. I've walked so long that I'm exhausted and famished. I've tried waving down cars for the whole day, but they were all like you, and they just wouldn't stop for me. I lost my cool in that instant, and I'm sorry!"

The man's anger seemed to have lessened upon hearing that, and he asked her, "Who tossed you here?"

"My boyfriend, but he's no longer my boyfriend now."

Melanie explained while trying to adjust her appearance. She looked pitiful and aggrieved while licking her wounds.

The man remarked, "Your boyfriend is too cruel."

Melanie did not answer him, but tears started rolling down her cheeks. "Mister, would you please drive me back to the city? I will repay you."

The man's eyes gleamed brightly with intrigue. "Oh? How are you planning to repay me?"

Melanie blushed with shyness. "Anyway you want!"