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Chapter 41 Mundane Conversations

Not long after Darek left, received a call from Louise I checked the time and found that it was already past ten o'clock. "Eve, where are you and Derek Louise asked bluntly. "I haven't seen either of you since 1 up this morning

There's no need for you to know. They probably thought the tent was too cramped for them to have fun, so they moved ulsewhere." Felix's voice came in the background. At the back of my head, all I could think about was hiew horrified Louise would be if she learned that I had already married Derek It wasn't exactly something I could just explain over the phone. I should tell her later, when we got the chance to sit down and talk slowly. 1 pormed on the first excuse that come to mind. "I was feeling a little uncomfortable Inst night, so Derek drove me home. "Really? Are you feeling any better now? What happened? Did you catch a cold last night?" "No, don't worry I'm fine now. Before Louise could say anything else, Felix's boud enimbla came up again.

Listen to you talk, you heartless womiin! I'm the one who caught a cold last night, and it's because you högged the quilt all to yourself. I still can t believe you hit me just because I tred to get half of the quiler

This was followed by a very hearty sneeze. It seemed like his complaints were justified.

But Louise only snorted. "You and I both know what you were thinking about last night, Did you really expect me to share the quilt with you? You're lucky I didn't go whend and castrate you."

"All right, fine, fine! Just my luck."

Texchanged goodbyes with Louise and hung up: I tossed my phone to the side and fell back on the bed, exhausted.

It see<u>med that Louis</u>e and Felix hadn't slept well, either but that was to be expected. My friend was a force of nature; it wouldn't be easy to conquer someone like her, not ever a man like

Felix

It was true that there was no way a woman and a man could simply chat and sleep under the same covers, and the inevitable was bound to happen.

I rolled around in bed some more before finally getting up I moved around and tidied everything up. When I was finally done with the mess, I was left with a tape of Thorn Birds, an item that was decidedly out of place. Vaguely. I wondered if there was something as ancient as a player in this sophisticated villa. I supposed hot.

It was already evening when Derek returned. I was watching TV when he arrived.

"Have you had dinner?" I asked.

Pure M an Commission "Yes. How about you? He changed into slippers and walked over to the sofa, looking worn but "cooked myself a bowl of noodles earlier," I said.

docon

Derek lounged back on the sofa beside me, his eyes twinkling with humor. "Can you cook anything else besides noodles?"

His question caught me off guard. I had to ponder it for a moment before it made sense-I had also made noodles the last time that I had been here.

"Who told you such a thing? I'm actually very competent in the kitchen."

And it was true. No one could question me in this. I had absolute confidence in my cooking.

"Does that mean that I'll be enjoying gourmet dishes from now on?" Derek grinned cheekily.

I crossed my legs and tucked a throw pillow in my arms. "Sort of," I quipped with a half-shrug. "Then let's go and get some good quality ingredients tomorrow. I'm looking forward to trying your food."

Our little chat was so mundane, yet I was feeling warm all over.

Shane and I had seldom sat together to talk, unless it had something to do with the house or his business

And to think it was only the first day since Derek and I had become husband and wife. Even so, he felt more like family than Shane ever had in the two years that we were married.

Derek lighted a cigarette and put some distance between us as he smoked. When we weren't talking about something, we just stared at the TV in companionable silence. I felt neither embarrassed nor pressured.

Much later, I finally brought up a subject I had been wanting to discuss. I told Derek I wanted to go and find a job. He said nothing for a while, and just flicked his cigarette on the ashtray. Perhaps it was the dim lighting in the living room, or the swirling wisps of smoke around him, but I found it difficult to read his expression.

"I can afford to support you even if you don't work."

"I know, but I want to be reliable, too. I don't want to completely depend on you. If I turn into some parasite leeching off of your fortune, then I would only be proving Vivien's accusations to be true." #

"Eveline, you are not poor, not in the slightest. With the compensation from your house alone, you're already ranked as a millionaire." Derek gave me a teasing smile

I sighed. "I know that a million is a huge deal, especially for someone like me. But a millionaire isn't really considered rich nowadays. Besides, my father used to tell me that it's better to earn a single penny a day instead of just sitting idly. And it's not like I can expect you to support me for the rest of my life. If you meet someone someday, someone you really like, don't hesitate to tell me. I will divorce you right away, without any ruckus. Naturally, I want to be someone capable and independent when that day comes."

I waited for a response, but Derek remained silent for a long time. I didn't bother to check his expression anymore. I didn't dare to: 21:03

"Tam a man of principle," he finally said, I won't divorce you ide I've chosen to marry you."

I felt my heart trembleside my chest this wordt I fled to the bedroom shortly after, telling bum that going to sleep Dental valid he would stry and smoke for a while more Tlay in bed, strung teen soo r t sound of lootste onding the sains. They continued past my d addiewind this I had a dior close

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Chapter 42 The Truth That Had Been Revealed

I had no idea if it was because of the change in the ambiance that made it difficult for me to sleep that night. I didn't even know when I fell into slumber.

The following morning, by the time I got up. Derek had already left

He must have gone to work already

I remembered that some of my stuff was still in Shane's house Now that he had taken everything he bought for me, it was only natural for me to take back what was mine. Not because those stuff were expensive, but because I had grown accustomed to using them. They had a nostalgic feeling for me

I called Shane to explain my intention. Fortunately, he didn't make things difficult for me. He just told me that the lock on the door had been changed, so that made my key to the house useless. He told me that he would leave a key for me at the guards' office I took a cab to the community and got the key from the guards' office like he said. Afterwards, I went straight to the elevator.

In the past, I would go in and out of this place each day. But now that I had come back. I noticed that many things had changed.

For some reason, I couldn't open the door with the key. I wondered if I was in front of the wrong house.

I looked up at the door and found that it was Room 703 I didn't make a mistake

I wondered if Shane was making a fool out of me again.

I glanced at the key I had been given, and soon found that the number on the key was Room 701, Unit 2. Building 8.

There was something wrong with it. The house we had was at Unit 1, Building 8, but this key 1 had was different. The house in front of me was Room 703, but the key was to Room 701

I didn't think that the guards would give me the wrong key, because there was a pair of pendants on the key. One had "Shane" on it, and the other had "Vivien". This was certainly the right key

Thus, I went to Room 701, Unit 2, filled with confusion. I inserted the key into the lock, feeling uneasy. Soon, I opened the door without trouble.

It was then that Shane called me.

Upon opening the door. I was stunned.

I never thought that the truth would be revealed to me this way.

"The very first thing I saw inside the room was Vivien's photo

I felt like my head was buzzing, and I couldn't hear the ringtone of my phone Feeling as if my soul had escaped my body. I walked into the house

There was a wedding photo of Shane and Vivien hung on the living room wall. The photo was so big that it almost covered half of the wall in the photo, she had her arms around his neck, smiling brightly It made my heart ache to see it.

The photo couldn't have been taken recently, because in the picture, Shane's hair was much longer than it was right now. He had only gotten a haircut around three months ago.

Upon thinking of the clues I found in the study previously, a wild guess popped into my mind. Suddenly, I felt my heartbeat becoming faster and faster by the second

The floor plan of this house was similar to Shane's. I found the study without much difficulty The second I pushed the door open, I was dumbfounded.

The study was enormous! It was big enough to hold a party in

To be precise, this wasn't just a study. It was a combination of a study and a bedroom

The bed inside the room was especially large. I thought that it must feel great to have sex on it The pink bed sheet and the quilt cover looked quite enticing.

A bookshelf that must've been originally pressed against the wall, had been turned ninety degrees. And this room had been integrated with Shane's study.

I realized that the bookshelf was actually a secret door, a door that provided convenience to their infidelity without me knowing anything

It was sort of ridiculous how I failed to notice it. Perhaps it was because I was just not that perceptive. How could I have anticipated Shane to come up with such a crazy plan just to cheat on me?

The room's design was certainly incredible. He could have as much sex as he wanted on the bed after reading

Shane was still calling me at this point. I didn't answer the phone until I had entered his study through the secret door

"Eveline, I left the wrong key. Perhaps you should retrieve your things some other day?" he said, sounding very tense.

"Shane. I must say. you were really great at hiding your mistress!" I sneered.

"So, you've seen it, huh?" Shane asked in disbelief.

"I was so stupid. You deceived me like I'm some kind of moron! But no matter how stupid I am. I still know the Arabic numbers on the key." Having said that, I hung up **the phone on him to** Vent my displeasure.

Although he and I were divorced, a mountain of hatred still resided in my heart.

I hated him not just because he cheated on me, but also because I was so stupid to believe him, I was so dumb that I didn't even notice they were having an affair when they were so close to me.

In the past, I held Shane at a high regard. Every word he told me, I took it seriously. He would never allow me to enter his study, so I did as I was told

That was right. I was honest, but stupid... so damned stupid

Perhaps there when a time that he was having sex with another woman, while I was cooling for him or washing him clothes like his nanny

The more I thought about, the ingrier I became.

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Chapter 43 Are You Blind

When i came out of the study and entered my previous living room. I saw the decoration had already changed. It was as if i never lived here.

Suddenly, i heared a meow coming from the balcony. The moment i went there, I found a dirty cat in the corner next to the oile of sundries.

It had lost a lot of weiight and was staring at me with pitilul eyes.

I gathered that Share and Vivian didn't take one of it while I was away

This was med Ugly led to be pecial bond with Ugly As ons nunted down, it, soit up and walked towards me. I could tell from the cat's movements how weak and leable it

I didn't mind that it was dirty now, so I didn't hesitate to hold it in my arms

Suddenly. I heard the door open

rid pretty Moon, She was standing right in front of me

You came home na font Why is that? Are you worried that I'll steal some of your stupa |

She looked very

easy and he went responding

This time, I couldn't help but ask him, "How long has it been since you fed Ugly? How could

onu b ocu, Sharel Are you going to starve it to death?

"Vinnin't very fond of cats" the responded.

Well of our

not the likes you, not cats," I neered

"If you feel so bad for your cat, then just take it wmy Vivien has been telling me to throw the smus way. The sides, I've already put your stuff together"

Hawty sauld that, the dragged out a woven bag from the pile of sundries on the balcony

"All of your stuff is in here."

Topened the bag and found that it was a bag of old junk.

There are various objects inside it, including fragments of my wedding photo with Shate, and

of my old toiletries. Most of them had been broken

So this beag of junk was the only memorabilia I had of my marriage with Shane, huh?

"Should I thank you for not throwing these stuff wwwy?"

"[

planning to call you undank you to come get them. But if you don't want them. I'll throw

As a matter of fact, I just wanted to come back to retrieve my clothes I had a lot of clothes that

uld still wear, and I didn't want to just throw them way. But now, the clothes had been stabled to that with the trash in this woven bag as if they had been dug out of a dumpstet te

de feel as though there was nothing I could take back with me aside from my no dirty

That's Viruen's house over there," Shane said after hesitating for a long time

For a moment. I paused before smiling "Talveady figured that out It seems that she really love you She would even break down a wall just to be with you! Damn, Shane! You worked so hard just to cheat on me that even God was moved and allowed you two to be together. But you know, I don't want to know anything about you, nor do I care about the details. Your life menu nothing to me

Having suid that, I left with Ugly in my arms. While I was walking away, Shane asked, "Did you really matty Derek Sullivan

I turned around, staring at him as if he were a fool. "Are you blind? Didn't you see us Yesterday?

"Does it upset you that I married a good man, Shane? Does it disappoint you that I didn't get on my knees and beg you to stay? Are you sad that I didn't die because you cheated on me and left me?"

"Eveline, de you honestly think that a man like Derek would fall in love with you?" Shane asked, staring suaight into my eyes.

His question made me feel uncomfortable

I was aware that Derek mamned me not because of love. And I could tell from Shane's words how much contempt he felt right now. He didn't think highly of me, and perhaps he thought Derek would feel the same about me. Maybe in his heart. I was just some woman that no man would ever like, and that I deserved to be abandoned by him.

"What does that have to do with you? Mind your own business, Shane Butt out."

I rushed to the door, carrying my beloved cat. I used to feel warm and comfortable in this house, but now. being in here for even longer than a second made me sick.

"Wait a minute." Shane stopped me again.

He went back to the bedroom and took out a pair of wool-knitted slippers

"My mother made these slippers for you. You already know that, right? Take them."

Truthfully. I was so touched that his mother took the time to make slippers by hand for me while she was busy with farm work. Although I didn't have that much interaction with her. I figured she was a simple woman. Thus, I cherished the slippers so much the moment I got them. I didn't even wear them to ensure that they would stay in good condition. Even until today, they still looked good as new

*Shane, you mother gave these to her daughter-in-law Now that we have nothing to do with each other, it wouldn't be appropriate for me to keep them."

I tried to speak as flatly as possible, but it was difficult to hide my sadness

Shane seemed to have one more thing to say, but my phone began to nng It was Derek

Durada de cod me when I wati. I hesitated for a while before I told him the truth: After hearing mbout it, he told me that he would pick me up right away With that, I left along with my cat at once.

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Chapter 44 I Have A Wife Named Eveline

I didn't expect that Derek would arrive so soon. When I walked out of the community, he was already there

The moment I got in the car, he glanced at the cat in my arms and frowned.

I was worried that he would dislike my dirty cat, so I hurriedly said, "Please don't hate Ugly yet! It's actually very cute. It's just that nobody is taking care of Ugly these past few days, so it has gotten a little dirty. I really feel sorry for this cat."

Derek's knitted brows loosened as a smile appeared on his lips. "In that case, take it home and bathe it carefully."

On the way home, he asked me, "Why did you even go there?"

I told him that I was merely taking back some stuff, but in the end, I didn't take anything aside from the cat that they had abandoned.

Noticing that I was in low spirits, Derek placed a hand on my head

"Did you feel sad?"

I felt a lump in my throat because of his question. "Not really."

After that brief interaction, he concentrated on driving and said nothing more. Throughout the entire journey, he was smoking and was visibly irritated.

What's the matter? Are you upset or something?" I asked cautiously. wondering if he was troubled by the fact that I interacted with Shane.

Derek took a drag on his cigarette and spoke in a tired voice.

"It's nothing I went to a social engagement this noon, and I'm just a little tired."

"Was someone trying to set you up with a girl again?"

The second he mentioned that he went to a social engagement, I remembered that I saw him in the bar with those people who wanted to introduce their daughters to him. But the momenti said that, I wished that I could bite off my own tongue

I shouldn't have asked that question. It made me seem like I was sticking my nose into too many things that were none of my business. I didn't want him to think that I was meddling with his affairs, not to mention I had no right to do that.

Derek cast me a sidelong glance and chuckled

"No If someone tries to set me up with a girl, I'll just tell them I have a wife named Eveline, and show them our marrage certificate."

His words were so touching that it made me feel like there were butterflies in my stomach.

Later on. I bathed Ugly and made it look fresh again. Afterwards, i prepared a little house for it and poured some milk into a bowl.

During the attentoon, Derek insisted on taking me to a shopping mall, and bought a lot of shoes and clothes for me. I noticed that the prices were devastating for an ordinary person, but he didn't bat an eyelash when he paid the bills,

The moment we got out of the mall, I said awkwardly, "These clothes are so expensive. I'd probably seel bad wearing them."

Derek looked into my eyes, smiling at me ever so brightly

"You're my wife. You deserve to wear all the expensive clothes you want."

"That's right. I need to improve my image I must make sure not to embarrass you," I muttered.

Suddenly, he raised my chin, making me look him in the eye.

"Eve, your husband isn't ashamed of you. I merely wanted to boost your confidence"

I was so enamored by his beautiful smile when he suddenly pecked my cheek in public.

Even though it was just one simple kiss, it was enough to leave me in a fit of panic. To be honest, I almost hyperventilated.

Especially because there were so many people staring at us! I felt very embarrassed

Derek seemed to be amused by my reaction, as the smile on his face widened, and he pinched my cheek

"Why are you so cute? You're blushing! Look at you, Eve!

I covered my face to hide the fact that I was flustered, and whispered, "I'm already twenty-six years old, Derek. You shouldn't be describing me as cute."

Derek chuckled again. "You'll still be cute in my eyes even by the time you're sixty-two."

I stared at him, seemingly in a trance as my thoughts drifted away

When I was sixty-two, would he still be by my side? Would he remain as my husband? Or would he be with someone else, and say these same sweet words to her?

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Chapter 45 I Can't Give You A Wedding For The Time Being

On our way back, Derek drove slow and steady. Soon, the bustling streets along the highway gradually receded from my sight

We were stuck in a traffic jam halfway back to the villa,

There was a long wedding caravan in front of us, and next to them was a well-decorated hotel Clearly, there was a wedding ceremony here:

The well-dressed groom took the bride out of their wedding car and walked into the hotel His berdie was wearing a beautiful white wedding dress, smiling brightly as she nestled in her

100m s arms

While I was watching them, I suddenly felt Derek's hand on mine. When I turned my head, I found that he had a serious look on his face

"I'm sory. Eveline, but I can't give you a wedding for the time being

Perhaps he said that because he noticed that I was looking at the newly married couple with Envous eyes

Projecting one's feelings onto another person's story was common

Truthfully, I wasn't expecting anything of the sort I was no longer a pure, innocent girl who only pursued romance. And besides, romantic stories normally began with love. Without it. romance would never exist.

11 have no desire of pursuing unrealistic things. I never thought of holding a grand wedding for my second marriage."

As a matter of fact, when I married Shane, our wedding was very simple. I had never had a grand wedding. Even though I was speaking calmly at the moment, there was still a trace of bitterness in my voice.

Derek held my hand firmly. "It has nothing to do with you being married for a second time. It's just that the time isn't right yet. I'm still worrying about some other pressing matters."

"I understand," I said, staring at my feet

The brief silence led to a slightly awkward atmosphere between us Fortunately, the traffic jam dissipated

Derek broke the silence when he started the car again

"I'll reserve a table at a restaurant for us tonight. There may not be a grand wedding, but it is necessary to entertain some guests."

He meant to have a gathering with his good friends. I thought it was a waste of money to go to a restaurant, so I suggested that I would just cook at home. But he told me that he didn't want me to exhaust myself. However, I insisted on cooking for our guests, so he relocated the dinner banquet to his house:

After going for a grocery run at the supermarket for some ingredients, we went home. Once we

were at home. Dere called his friends and I also called Louise

Upon hearing that we were going to have a dinner party at Derek's villa, Louise seemed to be warded out by it but she still need without hesitation

I really wanted to Timke this dinner party a success, because Derek's reputation could be affected by it

While I was washing some vegetables, he told me that he would help me. I refused his ofier. but when I turned around, I saw him cutting up some fish

I was surprised to see him doing it

His Herculean figure was slightly bent, and the cuffs of his white shirt had been rolled up Pretty soon, the fish had been sliced clearly, almost as if an expert prepared it

At this moment, I felt as though time had stopped flowing And all I could see was this gorgeous man in front of me, able to turn cooking into a captivating scenery.

"Are you actually a good cook, Derek?" I said in a voice laden with bewilderment

Derek stared at the fish under his hands and chuckled.

"I guess I'm not bad. But I don't usually cook

"Why not?" I asked

He placed the sliced fish into a plate and began to wash his hands. The sound of running water accompaned his voice.

"I only cook when I'm in a good mood. Truthfully. I don't like cooking when I have to eat alone But things are different now. I have a wife now. I can randomly eat any food, but I can't let you do the same.

His words inadvertently revealed a lonely part of his life, and it gave me a forlorn emotion.

"Don't you need to show up for work on time every day?" I made it seem like I was just asking casually, but in reality. I had been dreading to ask him this question for a long time

If people were to find out that I had no idea what my husband did for a living, they would certainly mock me.

"I have flexible working hours, so I'm mostly free," he remarked.

I was rendered speechless. His answer was of no help in giving me details.

At this time, the doorbell rang.

"Oh, that's probably them. I'll go open the door."

As soon as Felix and his friend entered the house, they began to make a fuss. It was as if they were planning to overturn the house. I had no idea if Louise just ran into them outside the house, or met up with them someplace else, but they all arrived together

The second I returned to the kitchen, she rushed into it and asked me what was going on I had planned to tell her about this matter today

"Derek and I got a certificate",