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Chapter 221

Stella just sat down on the sofa. Then, she saw Weston walking in from the balcony, holding his phone next to his ear. He glanced at her and said, "I have something to take care of. Be good and stay home." After picking up his jacket on the chair, he put it on and buttoned it up while walking toward the entrance. After taking a few steps, he suddenly stopped and looked back at Stella. "Come here." He gestured to her with a wave. Stella hesitated a little before she stood up from the couch and slowly walked up to him." What's the matter?" Weston said nothing as he pulled her by the collar and picked her up. Stella subconsciously let out a scream while her feet dangled in the air.

He carried her in his arms before she could even react. Their position changed at once. She looked down at the man in front of her and subconsciously put her hands on his shoulders to steady herself. Weston easily carried her with one hand while his other hand grabbed the back of her neck. He pressed her down and kissed her.

His hand was so strong that Stella was unable to struggle. He held her tightly and stole a hard kiss from her. He held her on top of him and forced her to take his kiss. Stella closed her eyes and waited until the man's invading scent faded away like a tidal wave. Finally, she opened her eyes. Her eyelashes fluttered gently. She resisted him strongly, but she held it in. Neither of them said anything. Perhaps, they did not need to say anything. Stella turned her head away, but Weston would not let her escape. He held her chin and forced her to look into his eyes. "I want to hear you say you'll wait for me to come back." Stella exhaled, looked into his eyes, and said softly, "Okay." She just could not say those words to him. However, Weston was satisfied with her one worded reply. As for the rest, he was not in a hurry to find out.

He set her down and placed a gentle kiss on her forehead. However, his tone was unmistakable. "I hope I will see you when I come home."

He reached out to help Stella-tidy her hair around her ear.

Stella stood there and let him do whatever he wanted. Then, she watched him leave.

All her strength escaped her the moment the door was closed. She stood still and did not move.

Suddenly, she dashed to the bathroom. She turned on the faucet and washed the corners of her mouth vigorously. She kept rinsing her mouth and turned the faucet to maximum, letting it hit on her skin as she rubbed herself so hard that her skin was red. Finally, she slowed down when her skin felt sore.

When the housekeeper, Joan, heard the noises, she hurriedly rushed over. She thought something had just happened.

She was shocked to see Stella keep rinsing herself off. She stood in the bathroom doorway, wondering if she should report to Weston.

Stella heard the footsteps and looked up. When she saw the woman standing in the doorway, she managed a smile at her. She paused a little before asking her in a shaky voice, "Can you not tell him?"

When she said 'him', she meant Weston.

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She knew Joan was not only in charge of taking care of her. She had also been ordered to keep a watch on her.

Every move she made would not escape Weston's eyes.

Joan seemed to be hesitant at her request. She sighed seeing the light in Stella's eyes turn dimmer. She said, "Ms. Steele, I'm just an employee. If you have any displeasure, please communicate with Mr. Ford directly."

That meant Joan could not make the decision. Stella nodded and managed a smile at her. "Okay. Nevermind. Don't worry about it. I won't trouble you." She casually pulled a towel and wiped the water from her face. At the same time, her phone in the living room suddenly beeped. She went over to see that it was a message from Yvonne. [Yvonne: Ella, why didn't you pick up the phone? I have something to tell you. The training center may be closed down.) Stella's face changed. She hurriedly looked up her call log and found several missed calls from Yvonne. She called her back in a hurry. As soon as the call connected, she asked Yvonne, "Why is the training center closing?" However, Yvonne was not the one who answered the call. A man's voice replied, "The policy has tightened these days. There's no need to run the training center anymore.

"Ms. Steele, please stay away from Yvonne from now on. She's righteous and always does stupid things for her friends. She easily trusts others. Please don't use her." His tone was soft, yet polite and distant. He was not blaming her, but Stella understood.

Stella quietly pinched her palm. Lucas' warning was clear; he did not conceal his prejudice against her. He did not want her to bring Yvonne's reputation down. Stella did not say anything and hung up the phone. About a few minutes later, her phone rang again. It was from Yvonne. She hesitated a little, unsure if she should answer it. After a few tones, she finally answered the call.

"Hello?" she answered hesitantly.

She thought it was Lucas who called, but Yvonne's voice came instead. "Ella? It's me! Did Lucas say anything to you just now?" Yvonne spoke in a hurry and said to her, "Don't listen to him! i just went to the toilet and saw him answering my phone. Did he say anything to you? Don't take it to heart!"

Yvonne knew Lucas disliked Stella. He might have said something bad to her. Hearing Stella's hesitant voice, she guessed at once, "He said something to you just now, didn't he?!"

Yvonne's voice turned cold. She wanted to settle the score with Lucas.

Stella hurriedly said, "He didn't say anything to me. He just said that the training center might be closed because of the tightening policy. Is that true?"

"Let me talk to you about this in person. Do you have time now?" Yvonne was distracted by the training center's matter. She sighed, "I'd like to talk to the others about this in person too

Stella could hear the dilemma in her voice and understood her condition, so she did not refuse.

"Okay, I'll come over now."

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Chapter 223

She got ready and was about to leave when Joan stopped her. "Ms. Steele, if there's no emergency, Mr. Ford said he hoped you would wait for him at home." Stella pointed to her phone and explained, "I have a work emergency, so I need to leave now. Did Weston say anything about restricting my freedom?" "Well, he didn't.." However, Joan felt a little troubled. Stella was in a hurry to go out. She said to her, "If there's any problem, I'll bear the responsibility." Then, she closed the door and left. Joan watched as Stela turned to leave. She went forward and wanted to chase her, but she could not stop her. Hence, she had no choice but to give Weston a call and explain the situation to him

Weston had just arrived at Ford Mansion when Joan called him.

He rubbed his temple and said, "If it's about work, just let her go."

Joan felt relieved to hear that.

After hanging up the phone, Weston walked into Ford Mansion.

As the car drove in, he saw from afar that the main door was wide open. The situation inside seemed to have calmed down.

When he strode in, someone jumped right into his arms

"Weston, what took you so long?" Guinevere cried so much that her makeup was all messed up. She hugged his waist tightly "I thought you didn't want me anymore..."

Weston's face was cold. He looked at Chris behind Guinevere and asked, "What is going on?"

Chris had a complicated look on his face. He explained, "She suddenly remembered the incident a year ago, but somehow, she quickly forgot again. She's emotionally unstable now. After you took her to the psychiatrist, anxiety consumed her. Now, she can barely distinguish reality and memory" Chris started blaming him. He complained, "I've told you to keep this a secret forever. Why must you take her to a psychiatrist? If you hadn't done that, there wouldn't be any problems

now!

Weston looked at him coldly, "Why don't you say that to yourself? Would any of this happen if you had kept your urges under control?"

Chris knew he was at fault and stopped arguing. He looked in the direction of the second floor and muttered guiltily. "Keep your voice down at home. If your mom hears us"

"So what if she hears us Things wouldn't have come to this if you had some sense of responsibility." Weston was unforgivingly savage

A fit of rage suddenly took over Chris. "What's the use of saying all these now? At this point, can we still turn back?! Don't forget this. You're the one who promised to help!" Weston closed his eyes with a grim face. After a short moment, he finally said with a mocking smile, "Right. I should've seen it coming."

Guinevere could not understand what they were saying. She looked up at Weston in confusion. "I called you earlier, but why didn't you answer? What have you been doing?" Weston did not say anything. He lowered his gaze at her, his eyes filled with complicated emotions. After a short moment, he asked her, "Do you feel unwell?" Guinevere shook her head, but she was glad to see he still cared about her, so her expression eased a little.

She muttered, "You never answered my call. I was scared that you didn't want me anymore... Weston, will we still marry? Will my emotional stability affect our marriage?" Weston said nothing. Looking at her messy hair, he thought of all the things that had happened.

He sighed softly. "You're emotionally unstable now. I'll bring you to the doctor." Guinevere shook her head. "No, I don't want to go. I'm scared." Tears began streaming down her cheek again. She looked at him and said sincerely, "I don't know what's wrong with me. They say I tried to strangle Zack. How could that be? Why would I strangle him..."

Weston's grip on Guinevere's shoulder suddenly tightened. He grabbed her shoulder and pushed her out of his arms.

He looked down at her and said, "You're emotionally unstable now and unfit to stay with Zack If you continue to stay here, you'll be a threat to his safety…"

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Chapter 224

Guinevere interrupted him before he could finish. "Weston, what do you mean? Do you want me to distance myself from Zack?" Her eyes were filled with complaints.

Chris stood behind her and said, "You have to keep a distance from Zack in your current state. If we're not around, you'll hurt Zack and Wendy. You'll suffer more than you are now."

The hope in Guinevere's eyes shattered. "I don't know why I hurt Zack… What's wrong with me? Why can't I remember anything…"

Weston looked at her grimly, like he was trying to see through her. After a short while, he said, "Let's go to the doctor first." This incident was such a big deal, and the Cohen family found out immediately.

They were already unhappy that Weston and Guinevere were still not married. When they heard that Guinevere suddenly became emotionally unstable, they rushed to Ford Mansion without delay.

When Weston was about to take Guinevere away, Mr. and Mrs. Cohen's car arrived. They got out of the car in a hurry and entered the mansion. When Mrs. Cohen saw Guinevere, she immediately burst into tears.

"Gwen..." Mrs. Cohen ran up to Guinevere and hugged her. Guinevere leaned into Mrs. Cohen's arms and sobbed uncontrollably. Guinevere grew up showered in her mother's love, but at this moment, she was crying with such messy hair. Mrs. Cohen had never seen Guinevere so aggrieved. She immediately lost her temper. Mr. Cohen walked to Weston with a sullen face. He questioned coldly, "What the holl happened?"

He pointed at Guinevere and said, "I left my daughter in your care. Is this how you take care of

her?

Weston remained silent. His silence only made Mr. Cohen angrier. "Why don't you say something? I need an explanation. My good daughter was fine before she got together with you and gave birth to your child. She's in such a mess before she even marries you. Do you still want to marry her or not?"

When Mr. Cohen said that, things got serious. Chris was not going to interfere, but based on the way the conversation was held and Weston's silence, the wedding could be affected.

"We're at fault. We didn't take care of her well. We'll try to make up for it." Chris was able to speak confidently and take charge in the presence of outsiders, unlike his weak and guilt ridden attitude towards Weston.

Everyone in the circle knew that Chris seemed to be in charge, but Weston had taken a lot of power. Chris had to consult him on any decision.

Mr. Cohen gave Weston a cold look. He knew only the elders of the two families could discuss the matter together. He walked up to Chris and said, "I came today to take Gwen home. I know the fact that my daughter got pregnant out of wedlock is not nice, but she has given birth to your family's first grandchild. Is this how you treat her?"

Chris was about to say something, but he stopped. Wendy suddenly came down the stairs and said, "No matter what, Gwen is still Zack's mother. We're going to treat her well."

Chris was surprised to see Wendy suddenly come downstairs. His eyes went wide. "Why did you come down?"

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Chapter 225

Wendy walked up to him and smiled at him. "How could I possibly leave you alone in a situation like this?

Chris looked into her sincere eyes and suddenly felt guilty. He turned away and did not dare to look at her again. He secretly regretted the absurd things he had done. However, what could he do now? Things had come to this point. He had no choice but to keep it a secret. Wendy did not fail to notice his evasive eyes, but she said nothing and smiled. Then, she looked at Mrs. Cohen and Guinevere with a polite face.

As a woman, she would deal with the other women.

"Gwen, did you feel uncomfortable living here? No matter what, our family has neglected you and didn't pay enough attention to your emotions. Just let us know your conditions. If we can meet it, we'll satisfy your demands." Hearing that, Mrs. Cohen frowned in anger. "What do you mean? Are you going to chase us out with a little benefit like this?!"

Mrs. Cohan complained, "We worked hard to raise our daughter. We don't expect you to treat her like a princess, but that doesn't mean you can hurt her! We're just asking for an explanation now. We're not asking for compensation! What did you do to force her into this state?"

"What..." Wendy felt troubled. She turned to Guinevere and said sincerely, "Gwen, let us know if we've done something wrong. We really don't quite understand why you suddenly became emotionally unstable."

Wendy looked sincere and admitted her negligence immediately. "I should've seen this coming Women are naturally more sensitive during postpartum. I paid too much attention to Zack and neglected you while Weston has been busy with work lately. I'm sorry..."

Wendy walked to Guinevere and held her hand kindly, but Guinevere subconsciously tried to retract her hand.

Guinevere gave it a thought and knew she was going to live with Wendy for the rest of her life. She would not go home with her parents. Therefore, she held back and relented. She did not resist Wendy and said in a docile manner, "I understand…" "We've gotten along well, so you can talk to me about anything." Wendy treated Guinevere gently like her own daughter. Mrs. Cohen's mood eased a little after seeing that Guinevere seemed to be on good terms with Wendy. "Anyway, we didn't send our daughter here to suffer. She got pregnant out of wedlock and gave birth to a child. We're already very upset about this…" Mrs. Cohen emphasized, "If Gwen hadn't insisted on marrying Weston, we wouldn't have agreed with this."

Mrs. Cohen would rather force Guinevere into an abortion. She would not allow her to be so cheap. Getting pregnant out of wedlock was a disgrace in both ordinary and prestigious families. Sure enough, they could cover up this matter with the power of their families. However, they still did not get married after the child was born. The news would get out one day. If this became a scandal in high society, it would affect both families adversely.

People would know that Weston reneged on his promise. They would know that Guinevere tried to marry Weston with her child, but he refused.

As time went on this would obviously hurt Guinevere's reputation more. Perhaps, she might have to live with the scandal for the rest of her life. People would say that Guinevere came to Weston with a child, but Weston did not want them.

This would become the Cohen family's disgrace. How could they maintain their pride in the circle then?

This angered them the most.

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Chapter 226

Guinevere was still unwed. The two families had just come to terms, and this suddenly happened to her.

Emotionally unstable? How ridiculous!

To the Cohen family, Guinevere was the best since childhood. Many young men of caliber were after her, and she was worthy of Weston. How could she suddenly have mental problems before her marriage? Mr. Cohen's consideration was more realistic than the women's. He thought of the benefits of the marriage and looked at Chris soberly. "Mr. Ford, you can speak to us about any problem in our business cooperation. Anyway, we'll become in-laws soon. Please let us know if there's any issue from our side.

"Gwen is just an actress. We don't agree with her career in the entertainment industry, but she doesn't know anything about the family's business. She'll marry Weston soon and become part of your family. If there's any problem, come to us directly. Don't take it out on her."

Mr. Cohen was straightforward with his words.

Chris' face changed when he heard that. He said, "Mr. Cohen, you must be joking. How can our cooperation affect their relationship?"

The Cohen family came to question them, but both families knew there was no conflict of interests between them. The main conflict was between Guinevere and Weston.

How could Mr. Cohen not see that? He was just testing them.

Mr. Cohen was pleased with Chris' positive reply. He said in relief, "I'm glad to hear that. Our families have known each other for a long time. We do trust you, but Gwen's situation..."

"Don't worry. We'll take responsibility." Chris said, "No matter whether they're married or not, we'll treat her as our daughter. She'll always be Zack's mother, and this will never change."

This was what Mr. Cohen wanted to see. He said, "I hope you won't forget what you said today."

"Of course not."

The two men had reached an understanding. Wendy looked at Mrs. Cohen and said sincerely, "Sorry for making you both worry about this matter. Anyway, I'll treat Gwen like my daughter Even if she's found to have some mental illness, everything that was agreed upon will not change..."

With Wendy's promise, Mr. and Mrs. Cohen had both achieved their goal. They knew when to stop. After all, they came this time to give Guinevere support. They were not here to burn any bridges

Since the Ford family had already shown their attitude towards the matter, the Cohen family

stopped complaining. "I hope this won't happen again. We know our daughter best..."

They paused and added, "Postpartum depression is a very common problem. You have to pay attention to this." "Of course. We'll do our best to treat her. Don't worry about this," Wendy promised sincerely. Mrs. Cohen was relieved to hear this. At last, the drama came to an end. No one asked Weston's opinion throughout the discussion. They only remembered him when he could help to clean up the mess for them. Chris, in particular, always treated Weston this way. Seeing that everything was under control, he breathed a sigh of relief and acted like the boss.

Weston watched the show emotionlessly. His unreadable gaze occasionally landed on Guinevere before moving away. Guinevere finally calmed down, then the two families sat down on both sides of the sofa and peacefully discussed the resolution.

Guinevere sat next to Mrs. Cohen and occasionally glanced at Weston. Seeing that, Mrs. Cohen could not help but say meaningfully, "If you want to sit with Weston, you can go there."

Mrs. Cohen said this on purpose. It was clear that she was urging them to get married.

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Chapter 227

Hearing that, Guinevere pressed her lips tightly. Weston remained silent.

At last, Chris was the one who spoke. "It's Weston's responsibility to take care of Gwen. Weston, sit next to Gwen." Weston did not say anything, but he got up and sat next to her. Guinevere leaned on his shoulder. "Am I keeping you from your work?" Weston knew what to answer when so many people were watching him. "It's okay," he said and remained calm and relaxed. He was the only one acting with ease. Mrs. Cohen was pleased with her future son-in-law. However, she was annoyed at the delay in their marriage. Other than that, Weston was really a great son-in-law candidate. He was excellent in terms of status, background, and appearance. There was no one else better than him in the circle.

A man was valued for his power and ability. Weston was the best in all that. He was one of the most powerful men in Ahn City and Fern City. Not many could compete with him. Guinevere and Weston's marriage would benefit the Cohen family a lot. The Cohen family had never suspected anything about the mariage. However, seeing the number of troubles lately, Mr. Colien wanted a serious statement from Weston. "Since everyone is here, let's get down to business. When will you two get married?" Guinevere and Weston were not married yet, but to the public, they seemed to be legally married already.

The wedding ceremony is not urgent. At the moment, Gwen's still emotionally unstable. We're not in a rush, but the marriage registration... Weston, don't you have anything to say to

us?"

Then, he looked at Weston with a sharp look and questioned, "Or do you have something else in mind?

At the same time, at the training center. When Stella arrived, Yvonne was the only one there. Yvonne was at the front desk cleaning up something Yvonne heard the sound of footsteps and looked up to see Stella "You came." Stella nodded and walked over. There was a short silence between them.

After a while, Yvonne said, "I've contacted other colleagues... and students. The school will be closed after this month's classes. We'll refund all the refundable fees, but don't worry. We won't default on your wages..." "Did I cause you trouble?" Stella suddenly interrupted her. Yvonne froze for a moment. She did not understand Stella's question.

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Yvonne explained, "It's the policy issue. We're not allowed to provide classes anymore. We're not an official school and just a hobby class, but overall, it seems"

Stella interjected again, "I mean, am I giving you a hard time?"

Stella was still smiling, but her smile was bitter. "Did your family talk to you because of me?"

Yvonne did not say anything and pressed her lips tightly. Indeed, her family was pressuring her. Lucas did not approve of her friendship with Stella either.

As soon as the news came out, none of them wanted to help. They all wanted her to get a new job and never contact Stella again.

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Chapter 228

Yvonne did not want to talk to Stella about these. It would upset her.

The training center was scheduled to be closed in a month. She did not know where Stella could work and felt bad for her. There was no need to upset her with the other problems.

"Never mind that. I'll pay you two times your salary." Yvonne knew the money was a drop in the bucket compared to what Weston could provide for her. Stella was already with Weston. She was not worried about money anymore. Even so, the wages were not the same as Weston's allowance. She figured that if Ella had more money with her, she would have more confidence. Stella understood Yvonne's kind intention and felt complicated. She hoped she was a strong woman with courage. At least she could repay Yvonne's kindness and not let Yvonne be humiliated by her family.

The other colleagues eventually arrived at the center. Yvonne had already explained the situation to them on the phone. They did not say much and just exchanged a look There was still a month to go before the closure, but this gathering felt like a farewell. Stella hated the atmosphere and stood in the corner by herself. She waited until it was almost over, then went over to Yvonne. Yvonne saw her coming and asked her, "Shall we talk?"

Stella nodded.

Yvonne said, "I gave everyone a day off today. I've instructed the finance department to calculate every staff's salary too. We'll try to complete the teaching plans as far as possible within this month. I'll talk to the parents later."

Stella did not know what to say. She had not been working here for a long time, but she had gotten used to the environment here.

She loved standing in front of the floor-to-ceiling windows here and watching the traffic downstairs to relax after the class. Yvonne noticed her silence and felt a little sad. "It's fine. We'll meet again " "From now on, you stay at home and study. Don't come out and meet with bad people." A man's low voice suddenly interrupted the two. Yvonne turned towards the voice and saw Lucas. She did not know when Lucas had arrived. Lucas strode to her.

When Stella saw Lucas, she stood up subconsciously. Lucas did not pay attention to Stella or look at her. He only focused his gaze on Yvonne.

"Didn't you say you'd be out for only two hours? Look at the time now. Why are you not leaving yet?" He could not get over the fact that Yvonne took Stella to a dangerous place to have fun. He had warned her many times not to go to such places, but Yvonne did not listen to him. Worst of all, a man had his eye on Yvonne at the dangerous place. As a result, he had to teach Yvonne a lesson when she came home. "Don't you need to work? Why did you come in the middle of the day?"

Yvonne was a bit angry. "I said I'd handle this myself. Besides, the training center is closing, so I can't meet Ella much after this. Must you keep an eye on me to this extent?"

"The moment I stop keeping an eye on you, you'll end up at a place like The Dog House. Don't you have any sense of self-awareness?" Lucas reached out and pinched Yvonne's face.

He warned with a cold voice, "Don't ever go to that kind of place again." "Why not! Don't you go to those places too?" Yvonne found his demand absurd. She felt guilty for going to The Dog House, but she bumped into Lucas there. He went to the same place as she did, so why did he only reprimand her?

She did not want Lucas to think of Ella badly, so she put up with his nonsense.

The center was going to be closed, so she would have less chance to see Ella soon. Why should she put up with it any longer?

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Chapter 229

Lucas' face sank "You still don't know your mistake until now?"

"What did I do wrong? All I did was go out to have fun! Besides, I was the one who took Ella there. What does it have to do with hier? Why are you taking it out on her?"

Seeing that the couple were about to argue, Stella had to intervenc. She explained, "Yvonne took me out to relax that day. We didn't do anything there. She only watched me play the piano." Lucas cast an indifferent glance at her. His eyes were emotionless, but Stella could feel his coldness.

"I'm sure Ms. Steele has somewhere to go even if the training center is closed. With Weston, you'll never have to worry about anything in your life. You won't need Yvonne's help either."

Stella's eyes slickered for a moment. Then, she kept her eyes down. She suddenly smiled. "Yes. I do have a lot of unimaginable benefits from staying with Weston. Thank you for the reminder."

She felt guilty towards Yvonne, but not towards Lucas. Lucas did not expect Stella to say that and sneered. He turned to Yvonne, "Are you done? If you are, leave with me." Yvonne did not want to leave. "You should go to work and leave me alone!" "I took the day off. Yvonne, don't test my patience." Yvonne became angrier. "I've told you a million times! Weston is the one who forced Ella into it! I've never known you to be a person with double standards! Anyway, these aren't our affairs. It's between Weston and Ella. Why do you blame Ella and not Weston?" "I don't blame either of them," Lucas cut her off and grabbed her wrist. "Their affair is none of my business. All I know is that it's been giving me a lot of headaches these days." He would never tell Yvonne that he did not like her paying attention to anyone else other than him. Yvonne had always been around him ever since she was a child. She always devoted all her attention to him. After they got married, Lucas became very busy with his work. The hospital matters kept him busy.

Yvonne complained about how he had less time for her. He was not sure when it started, but she eventually complained less.

Some time ago, he deliberately took time off to be with her. However, she said she was busy and had to go to work

Soon, Ella came into her life and took much of her attention.

Yvonne would rather spend time with Ella than with him at home. It was unlike him to get

upset over such a trivial matter, but he refused to let Yvonne understand his real thoughts. He wanted to drag her away without saying a word.

Yvonne hurriedly looked at Stella. "Ella, I-"

"I'm fine," Stella cut her off with a smile. "You should go back I'm going back too."

Yvonne finally remembered about Ella's younger brother. She was able to help her hide her matter by telling her brother that she was away on a business trip and could not come home. However, her brother would eventually find out the truth after the training center's closure.

What excuse would Ella use then?

Stella had considered Yvonne's concern too.

She looked at the time and gave it a thought. It was still early, so she went back to Roger and her house.

She had been away for a few days. Somehow, she had a strange feeling coming home again.

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Chapter 230

She did not think too much and went to cook dinner instead. Roger was studying at the university nearby. He did not live in the dormitory for health reasons, but the university reserved a place for him in the dormitory. Even so, Roger spent most of his time living outside with Stella. When he came home today, he finally saw Stella's shoes again. He was very happy. "Sis, you're back?" Stella was cooking in the kitchen. When she heard Roger's voice, she answered him with a hum and urged, "Wash your hands! Dinner is almost ready." She heard the sound of the door closing. After a short moment, some quick footsteps came from behind. "Have you washed your hands?" She did not look back and focused on the soup in the pot. A moment later, she felt a weight on her shoulder. Roger rested his chin on her shoulder. He closed his eyes and breathed a sigh of relief. "Sis, you're finally back from your business trip. I haven't seen you for days. I missed you." Stella chuckled and pushed his head away. "How old are you? Why are you still acting like a child?"

Roger looked at her in displeasure. "My age doesn't matter. I'll always be your baby brother!" Stella smiled. "Okay. Let go of me now. I'm going to serve the soup." Roger let go of her. He stood aside and watched Stella's moves.

After their parents died, the two of them stayed together. It was rare for them to be apart for so long

When he was hospitalized while Stella was out there busy earning money, they had no choice but to live separately. He wanted to help, but he could not do anything. Then, something terrible happened after. He could not protect his only sister. However, things had changed. His condition was stable, and he was on track with his studies. He would graduate and start working in a few years. He would be able to share the responsibility and ease Stella's burden. "Sis, why don't you take the public exam?" he said out of nowhere. Stella was stunned. She put the bowl of soup on the counter and continued serving it. When she was done, she looked at Roger in confusion. "What made you think of that?" "Or you can be a teacher at some school," Roger suggested. "I want you to get an easier job. I think your work at the training center is too tiring. You have to wake up so early every day and leave work late. You'll be judged by your work performance too. I heard that the policy has

tightened, and the training centers are no longer profitable..." Since he started the topic, Stella could only tell him about the news in advance. "The training center will be closed next month." She would have to tell Roger about this sooner or later. She chose to tell him earlier. Just as she expected, Roger was not surprised by the closure either. He sighed, "It's only a matter of time. Besides, I didn't want you to work there any longer." Stella felt a little helpless. "Taking the public exam and becoming a teacher isn't as easy as you imagine." Roger walked to her. "Then go find some other easy job. Don't tire yourself out." He pulled her wrist and shook it gently.

"I've heard about Justin and you..." Stella looked up at him with a start. "Did he tell you something?" Stella had forgotten about Justin. She had not seen or talked to him after they ended things in an unpleasant way. They were both adults and knew where to stop.

She did not think she would ever hear his name again. However, she forgot that Justin was still Roger's lecturer at the university. Perhaps, he had told him something.

Roger shook his head. "Well, he didn't tell me anything. That's why I know you two are not going to work out anymore. Right?" Based on Roger's understanding, Justin suddenly became interested in Stella, but his interest did not last long. Something must have happened between them. Stella fell into a short silence upon hearing that. She explained, "It's impossible for us to work out. Don't think so much about it. We're just not compatible with each other. Besides, I don't plan to get into another relationship any time soon."

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