

The Contracted Ever After Chapter 31 - 40

Chapter 31

Lets go Ronan said, grabbing Cordelia's hand and they hopped into the car

Jamie standing dumbfounded, Ronan was married to Cordelia? He sent Adrian a message: (Did your sister get married?)

10 Ronan's caf

“Why haven't you spilled the beans?” Ronan grilled Cordelia.

Cordelia clutched her bag tight, she'd dug herself into this hole.

“I don't know how to break it to him.” Cordelia hung her head. She needed to explain the whole fake boy friend thing.

“Is there anything to be ashamed of being married? Or are you scared it'll burst his bubble?” Ronan mocked.

“It's not like that.” Cordelia said.

“Didn't he go for an intership? Why is he escorting you to class?” Ronan asked again. His words were ice-cold today; they sent chills down her spine.

“He's my tutor at the prep class, teaching me business law.” Cordelia said.

“So, every time you're off to the training class, are you actually going on dates with him?” Ronan asked.

“No, let me explain.” Cordelia said.

“I won't let you step foot in that prep class again!” Ronan commanded sternly.

Hearing this, Cordelia got antsy, saying, “I paid \$1,800 for a top-notch course, they promised I'd ace the exam and there's no refund!” Cordelia retorted decisively.

“You're not allowed to go!” Ronan said coldly, “I'll give you \$18,000. You can't go! If you do, I'll break your legs!”

Cordelia knew resisting was futile, and if she kept arguing, he'd treat her even harsher. So she just sat back against the car seat, eyes closed. When they pulled up at Pearl Palms, Ronan took out his phone and transferred \$18,000 to Cordelia. The money landed straight into her bank

account.

Cordelia stomped off with her backpack, pissed. She went to bed early without even having dinner.

“What’s up with Della?” Barney asked, he cared about Cordelia, “She is not having dinner?”

“She’s upstairs, throwing a fit!” Ronan said.

Barney laughed, “Even if she’s pissed, you should cut her some slack. You’re older after all.”

Ronan didn’t respond. When he went upstairs, Cordelia was lying in bed, covered head to toe in a blanket. Ronan yanked the blanket off.

“What’re you doing?” Cordelia snapped, squinting at the sudden light.

“Getting mad won’t change a thing. You better face the reality.” Ronan said coldly.

Cordelia huffed and turned her back on Ronan. She’d need another plan if she wanted to attend the prep class.

It wasn’t because Cordelia was hell-bent on the prep class, but she felt it was a shame to waste the \$1800 registration fee since there was nothing between her and Jamie.

Cordelia had a rough night’s sleep. When she woke up in the morning, Ronan was getting dressed near the bed,

She got up, picked up Ronan’s shirt, and started dressing him. Ronan frowned slightly, unsure of what Cordelia was thinking but her actions were incredibly gentle, like a mother’s.

“Actually, Jamie isn’t my boyfriend. I was just pulling your leg.” Cordelia buttoned up Ronan’s shirt. Her fingers lightly touched his chest, and the warm touch comforted Ronan to his core.

“So, do you still have anything that you need to tell me?” Ronan looked down at her. Though his tone was reproving, he couldn’t hide the affection. Cordelia sensed his soft spot from his words and gathered more courage, “You asked me to marry you back then, but I didn’t want to, so I made up a boyfriend story. Coincidentally he wanted my contact but I didn’t give him. When you asked me what my boyfriend’s name was, I just blurted out his name. I didn’t expect there would be a real person by that name. He’s my brother’s boss’ son and a tutor at the prep class. My brother wanted to set us up, so he added me on Messenger.”

“You better be telling the truth!” Ronan said.

“Of course I’m telling the truth.” Cordelia’s fingers were busy with Ronan’s buttons, she looked at him with innocent wide eyes.

“Are you buttering me up?” Ronan asked.

“Ronan, are you that easy to butter up? You’re smart and intelligent, who could pull the wool over your eyes?” Cordelia complained a bit.

“He’s been pursuing you but you didn’t turn him down. Maybe it doesn’t matter now, but what about the future?” Though Ronan’s tone was calm, there was a hint of dissatisfaction.

I’m not that kind of person. Besides, I’m married now. If I cheat on you, you’ll definitely be pissed. Cordelia leaned in closer to Ronan

Ronan didn’t respond ready to leave.

“Dear husband, let me go to this prep class! There’s nothing between Jamie and me. It was just a trap set by my brother. Nothing happened.” Cordeka stopped Ronan

“Say that again

“Dear husband, we’re sharing property, so it’s just money moving from one pocket to another when we borrow from each other. But the money I paid the prep class is in someone else’s pocket, and it’s natural for me to feel bad.” Cordelia persisted.

In the end, Ronan didn't object, 'Let me know when you're going to class next time. And make sure Janice accompanies you every time!'

"Thank you, dear husband." Cordelia was thrilled and even planted a kiss on Ronan's cheek. She thought Ronan would be mad, but he just glanced at her and said nothing, seemingly enjoying her words.

Through this experience, Cordelia finally discovered Ronan's Achilles' heel. As long as she didn't argue with him, showered him with praise, and went along with him, she'd be fine.

Chapter 32

On Sunday noon, Cordelia told Roman that she had a class to attend in the afternoon

Ronan sipping his coffee leisurely, said, "Have Janice accompany you."

"You're so considerate Cordelia was thrilled.

"Don't flatter me. If there's any more trouble, forget about attending" Ronan picked up a napkin to wipe his hands.

Cordelia stuck out her tongue, thinking. "Nothing ever seems to get past Ronan."

At the class, Cordelia ran into Manda.

However, Manda was vague and even trembling, seemingly scared. "Cordelia, I'm sorry about last time." Manda spoke, "My brother was in the wrong

"It's fine, after all, you can't control your brother's actions." Perhaps because Cordelia had an irresponsible brother, she understood Manda's

situation

This time in class, Manda deliberately sat far away from Cordelia.

Cordelia was somewhat puzzled

When Jamie arrived for class, his gaze naturally fell on Cordelia. Despite Manda's hatred for Cordelia, she could only hang her head and say nothing.

Ronan had broken Lionel's leg and even sent someone to his house to check on him, putting on a show, and warning Manda and her brother not to be ungrateful. Having witnessed Ronan's fury for the first time, Manda was naturally scared.

To avoid offending Ronan, Cordelia deliberately avoided Jamie's gaze and left the classroom as soon as class ended.

Upon seeing Cordelia, Janice greeted her with a beaming smile, "Are you tired, ma'am?"

"I'm not tired, I just had one class." Cordelia left with Janice.

Jamie, trailing behind, frowned. He remembered Cordelia mentioning that Ronan was her husband. But Adrian denied it when he asked. Now, the Evans family's maid came to pick Cordelia up personally. What was going on?

Jamie decided to investigate the matter himself. Two days later, Jamie showed Adrian a photocopy of Cordelia and Ronan's marriage license.

"See for yourself!" Jamie was clearly angry, especially since Adrian had previously attempted to introduce his sister to him.

"What's this about?" Adrian picked it up, disbelief written all over his face.

"Who should I ask if not you? You better not pull stunts like this again!" Jamie said.

“Could this be fake?” Adrian asked hesitantly.

Jamie gave a bitter smile, “I have a friend who got some connection. It’s real,”

Upon saying this, Jamie walked away, disappointed that Cordelia was already married.

Adrian’s initial shock slowly turned into delight. Ronan, the man he didn’t even dare to think about, was his brother-in-law! No wonder Cordelia didn’t hesitate to find a caregiver for their mother.

Had he known, he wouldn’t have bothered setting up Cordelia with Jamie. What a waste of effort.

On Saturday, Adrian visited Ronan’s villa. Ronan was taken aback as he didn’t know Adrian.

“Isn’t Della here?” After saying this, Adrian naturally settled himself on Ronan’s couch as a family member. Cordelia visited her mother every Saturday, Adrian knew she wouldn’t be home, so he had asked on purpose.

“No, are you looking for her?” Ronan furrowed his brows.

“Yes, my dear brother-in-law.” Adrian said.

“You are my wife’s brother?” Ronan asked with a frown.

He recognized the man before him; it was Cordelia’s mediocre brother.

“Yes, she just told me about your marriage. I know you must have reasons for keeping it a secret, but living in a shabby little house doesn’t suit my status as the billionaire’s brother-in-law. You should get me a villa, right? And my job, you should help me find a

better one. I'm currently working as Thomas Colby's driver. If your subordinates hear about this, it might not sound too good." Adrian seemed to be pressuring Ronan.

"Thomas? Is Jamie his son?" Ronan asked, still frowning.

"Yes. Also, our mother is sick and needs money. The hospital fees are ten grand a month, and hiring a caregiver costs one grand a month. In case of emergencies, you should at least cover our expenses for five years, right?" Adrian said.

"How much do you need?" Ronan asked calmly.

Adrian spread out his hand, "Five million dollars."

Ronan chuckled, seemingly mocking Adrian's greed.

I can help you find a job, but my money doesn't grow on trees either' Ronan said flatly

"If you don't pay, I have my sister divorce you! She and Jamie are in love. It was love at first sight. Jamie doesn't mind that she's been married before." Adrian couldn't contain his anger, standing up from the couch.

"You can discuss that with her first, then talk to me." Ronan retorted coldly.

Seeing that he couldn't threaten Ronan, Adrian huffed, "I'll go to your company and reveal your marriage."

"Really? That's fantastic. It would save me the trouble of fending off annoying suitors."

Ronan chuckled again.

Adrian was speechless.

Seeing that he got nothing from Ronan, Adrian stormed off in a huff.

Chapter 33

Ronan made a call to his subordinate, asking him to check up on Cordelia's mom's condition. He also specifically looked into what happened on the day Cordelia and he got married.

His assistant responded, "Cordelia's mom had a lung infection that day, and the medical bills came out to six grand."

Initially, Cordelia had refused to marry him, but then she changed her mind. Ronan finally pieced together the reason, she needed the money. She had no feelings for him, nor she was leading him on.

Thinking about all this, Ronan couldn't help but feel a bit down in his heart.

But there was one thing Ronan didn't get it. He had already given her a bunch of money, even excluding that 18 grand he gave her out of spite, it was at least 30 grand. That should be more than enough to cover the 6 grand in medical bills. Plus, he had told her that once the mission was completed, she would get a half a million. Why was she still asking him for a hundred grand? Was she just greedy?

At 3pm. Cordelia came back.

"Was the food at Brooklyn's mom's place any good?" Ronan asked, lounging on the couch.

Cordelia had said she was going out to eat at Brooklyn's place today, Brooklyn lived in the suburbs of Millstone and would return every weekend. "It was delicious." Cordelia said.

"Oh? What did they make?" Ronan asked.

"Huh?" Cordelia hadn't expected Ronan to care about the details, "Just some standard home-cooked meals."

Ronan stared at her, saying, "Cordelia, you know Pinocchio, right?"

"Huh? I didn't lie. I didn't." Cordelia's eyes started to flicker, and her ears turned red. He had seen right through her.

“Going to the hospital to visit your mom isn’t something you need to hide. Why didn’t you just tell me?” Ronan was probably very disappointed in Cordelia, so he went upstairs.

Cordelia stood there, thinking how did he figure it out. Last time she told Jamie that Ronan was her husband, but Jamie wouldn’t know about her mom being in the hospital. Did he ask Adrian?

Thinking of this, Cordelia was taken aback and texted Adrian: [Have you been to my place?]

Cordelia didn’t reveal any current information, just sent a probing message. If Adrian hadn’t actually contacted Ronan, her actions would seem very strange to him.

[Cordelia, your place is huge! I’ve never seen such a big villa in my life. I asked Ronan for money, but he wouldn’t give me any. Can you spare a hundred grand? For a rich lady like you, a hundred grand is nothing, right?] Adrian replied.

Upon seeing this, Cordelia panicked and only replied: [Piss off!]

Seemed like Adrian had indeed contacted Ronan.

Cordelia suddenly felt guilty towards Ronan. She dropped her backpack and went upstairs where Ronan was changing his clothes.

Cordelia suddenly hugged him from behind, nuzzling into his back. Ever since last time, she knew that showing vulnerability and compliance was the most effective strategy with Ronan.

“So, what’s this all about?” Ronan asked, his voice much softer than before.

Cordelia held onto him; this sensation felt incredibly comforting.

“You know everything about my family situation, don’t you?” Cordelia asked.

“Your brother filled me in.” Ronan said.

Cordelia understood that Adrian had indeed been here and he even tried to shake Ronan down for money. “Just ignore him. I don’t even want to deal with him. I apologize on his behalf, okay? I have exams coming up, and once they’re over, I’ll stay home every day

with Barney.” Cordelia felt very comfortable with the heat of Ronan’s body so her words sounded incredibly sweet.

“Now you’re begging for mercy?” Ronan asked.

“I’m sorry.”

“After the exams, you won’t need to attend the tutoring classes, correct?”

“That’s right.” Cordelia said.

“I wish you could finish your exams sooner.” With that, Ronan stepped forward and put on his shirt.

Cordelia understood the subtext to finish her exams sooner and stay away from Jamie.

Suddenly leaving Ronan’s embrace, Cordelia felt a bit lost. Cordelia felt that Ronan probably had some resentment towards Jamie. After all, Jamie had been a real pain in the ass for the proud and aloof Mr. Evans.

Cordelia also thought that she really should finish the exams sooner.

Chapter 34

The test took place on Saturday from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

Cordelia, upon arriving at the exam venue, realized that she had forgotten her Driver’s License at home. She didn’t have a clue where she left it She didn’t want to disturb Ronan, but without his help, she couldn’t take the exam. So, she called him.

Hey babe, can you do me a favor and find my Driver’s License? I completely forgot to bring it with me.” She tried to keep her cool even though she was in a hurry.

“Are you sure your brain’s up to an exam?” Ronan’s voice was flat.

“I’m dead serious, I left my Driver’s License at home. It’s urgent. I’m begging you. Please.” Cordelia pleaded.

Hold on.” With that, Ronan hung up.

He told Deanna, who was lounging on the sofa, “Wait for me downstairs.”

“What’s up?” Deanna asked, feigning concern.

“Cordelia’s gone for an exam and she’s left her Driver’s License behind.” Ronan headed upstairs after saying this.

“Really? Well, you better go find it then.” Deanna pretended to smile sweetly-

Deanna had come to Evans’ residence under the pretext of visiting Barney, who happened to be taking a nap. She had come to talk with Ronan, and with Barney out of the picture, it was the perfect opportunity.

However, seeing Ronan being bossed around by Cordelia and even going upstairs to find her stuff, Deanna may not show it but she was seething inside.

Ronan didn’t find anything so he got Janice to help out. After all, women had a knack for knowing where other women stashed their stuff.

Ronan found Cordelia’s suitcase on the balcony, and cracking the lock was child’s play to him. He didn’t find her Driver’s License in there, just a notebook with a worn cover.

Something felt off to Ronan. Why would Cordelia hide this notebook in such a secret spot? He picked it up and flipped it open. A photo fell out. It was of a handsome man with a bunch of kids; the guy was really good-looking.

“Sir! I found Mrs. Evans’ Driver’s License. It was in her old canvas bag’s pocket, the one she washed and left in the bathroom.” Janice’s excited voice echoed behind Ronan.

Ronan’s thoughts were interrupted.

“Take a cab and give it to her. I’ll text you the address.” Ronan said.

“Okay.” With that, Janice headed downstairs.

As Janice rushed out of the living room, Deanna asked her, “What’s up, Janice? Where are you off to?”

“Oh, I found Mrs. Evans’ Driver’s License. I’m going to deliver it to her.” Janice left in a hurry after saying this.

Deanna thought to herself, “If they’ve found the Driver’s License, why hasn’t Ronan come downstairs yet?”

Meanwhile, Ronan was upstairs going through the notebook. It was thick and spanned about three years. The owner of the notebook was a guy named Logan. His name and home address were written on the cover.

Logan, a name Ronan was hearing for the first time.

Three years ago, Logan met a pure-hearted girl with a brilliant smile and he fell for her at first sight. They started dating and went to school together. They went to ski in the winter, and swim in the summer. They were the world's most lovey-dovey couple.

The girl had even met Logan's parents. They were just waiting for the day to get married.

Then Logan graduated, and he went to teach in a remote area.

Almost every diary entry mentioned the same name, Della.

Della was Logan's girlfriend. She was Cordelia.

Logan's love letters to Della were full of passion and affection; they also expressed his concern for the less fortunate children in the remote areas and his sympathy and compassion for the world.

The last entry, Logan only wrote half a page. The rest was in Cordelia's handwriting: We planned to get married right after college, but you're never coming back!

Logan's biggest wish was to donate 200 computers for the rural school kids. Cordelia's note said: I'll make sure your wish comes true.

Ronan's thoughts slowly rewind. The day Barney came, Cordelia came home looking all tired and stuff. She wouldn't pick up her phone all day, then he told her to move to Barney's place. She asked for more money, which caught Ronan off guard. It was the first time she haggled with him. If there were no surprises, that money wasn't for her mom, but for her first love.

At this, Ronan tightened his fist. For the first time in his life, he had been played for a fool.

No wonder her attitude had been so sweet recently!

Her being nice to him was just a facade; she was actually trying to get money for her deceased ex-boyfriend!

Chapter 35

ore than a bit pissed closed Logan's diary "I'm just about to head down"

had already waked ever. "What's the?" Deanna picked up Logan's photo from Cordelia's suitcase. She knew it had to be Cordelia's

cause Ronan wouldn't be caught dead with a suitcase of this sort. She also knew the diary in Ronan's hand was related to Cordella. the reason Ronan was taking forever to come downstairs was because he had discovered something

"Ronan, this guy looks a bit like you" Deanna lifted her head as if she had figured something out.

In reality, Logan and Ronan only had a slight resemblance, but now that Deanna pointed it out, they seemed to look more alike.

"Really?" Ronan's face turned even paler. He managed a weak smile.

Deanna observed Ronan's expression, and continued. "Yeah, especially when he smiles, he looks even more like you."

Let's go downstairs." Ronan took the photo from Deanna, tucked it into the diary, and put everything back to the way it was.

"Who's this guy? Why does he look so much like you?" Deanna played dumb, subtly stirring the pot.

"Nothing" Ronan's expression turned even more serious.

After Deanna left, at nine o'clock, Cordelia and Janice returned home. Janice had been waiting outside the test center for Cordelia to finish her exam

Barney asked Cordelia how her test went.

"I did really well, Barney. Thanks to your tutoring in International Business Law, I wouldn't have passed otherwise." Cordelia said while eating, she was starving.

Ronan didn't say a word. He had always been a man of few words, so Cordelia didn't pay much attention to his strange mood.

"Don't flatter me." Barney replied with a smile.

"No, I'm genuinely grateful. I've never studied International Business Law before, it's a really tough subject." Cordelia replied seriously. Barney studied Civil Law and Commercial Law. International Business Law was a part of it, as well as a part of Economic Law.

"Get ready, you're going on a business trip tomorrow." Ronan said.

"Okay, where am I going?" Cordelia was a bit lost.

"It's a last-minute decision by the Finance Department. I've already agreed." Ronan said.

Cordelia was still a bit confused, thinking, "Well, just go with the flow. She can't really refuse anyway. Even though she'll miss Barney, staying home all the time could raise suspicions."

"You're sending Della on a business trip?" Although Barney didn't want her to leave, he was a sensible man and knew not to stand in the way of

Della's career.

"Yes." Ronan said.

"How long will she be gone?" Barney asked.

"That's not confirmed yet. It depends." Ronan answered.

After dinner, they went upstairs.

Ronan told Cordelia the truth, "The business trip is just an excuse. You're going to move out. Your dorm room has always been empty." Cordelia paused for a moment. She nodded, and mumbled. She didn't fully understand why.

"I'm afraid..." Cordelia said.

"Afraid you won't sleep well?" Ronan's tone was a bit mocking.

Cordelia blushed, explaining, "No, I'm afraid it'll affect Barney."

"Don't worry, you've fulfilled your role." Ronan said.

Ronan was the client. Cordelia didn't fully understand his viewpoint. Even though they had been living together for over twenty days, their communication hadn't reached a heart-to-heart level. It was still the same as before. They were very familiar with each other's bodies though.

"Well..." Cordelia said.

"I'll pay you and make up to the promised half a million dollars." Ronan said.

When Ronan brought up the money, Cordelia didn't object. After all, she did all this for the money. She didn't pretend to be noble, since he said so,

let it be.

“I’ll go pack.” With that, Cordelia picked up her suitcase from the balcony and quickly gathered her clothes.

Ronan watched silently from the side.

The next day, after saying goodbye to Barney, Cordelia put her suitcase in Ronan’s car

As Cordelia carried her suitcase towards the dorm, people started whispering, “She broke up with Mr. Evans”

“I bet Mr. Evans was just playing with her. Once he got bored, he sent her back”

“She’s back, how embarrassing.”

Then came the soft laughter

Cordelia returned to the dorm under everyone’s gaze

Brooklyn knew that Cordelia moving back from Mr. Evans’s house with her suitcase would be embarrassing, so she didn’t ask any questions, just saying, “Have you eaten? Let’s go to work, it’s almost time.”

Cordelia paid no mind to the gossip and soon started a new week.

Chapter 36

Prins shot Rosh, but the wet pinang high hopes on the marriage Being kicked out, she didn’t that the sting of

message: [Lbel what you’ve done. You threatened Ronan and he threw me out straight away How much space you

et? He frowns me a dime when he's in a good mood and I don't even dare to take it, yet you thought it was a good idea

this was to get Adnan to drop the idea of blackmailing Ronan, to alert him that Ronan was no pushover

Adrian, seeing the message, got even more pissed off. He too realized that Ronan was no easy mark, let alone someone to be trifled with Heartless Cold blooded” Adrian mustered bitterly

“Who are you talking about?” Jamie asked

Adrian was the Colby family's driver, tasked with taking Jamie to the accounting firm today. Jamie had his own firm.

Tonen, he kicked Cordelia out!” Adrian said.

“Why?” Jamie asked.

“I don't know. Maybe he did it to mock and trample on the dignity of us poor folks. Who knows what his real motive was?” Adrian replied with a

dark chuckle

As expected, Jamie furrowed his brows.

After a while, Adrian went on, “Also, when I last visited Ronan, he said that his marriage with Cordelia was just a formality. Apparently, Ronan's grandfather is sick and he needed to get married to show him how happy he is, just to put the old man's mind at ease. That's why he picked Cordelia*

That was Adrian's well considered conclusion.

During his last visit to Ronan's place, the maid had whispered to him that Barney was ill and sleeping, asking him to keep his voice down. Adrian also noticed the medical supplies and loads of medications around Ronan's house.

Later, Adrian found out that Ronan's grandfather had only recently moved in, most likely because his condition had worsened. Ronan was probably putting on a show, clandestinely getting married to cheer up his grandfather and then quietly divorcing, with Barney being the only one in the dark.

Ronan kicking Cordelia out really did make it seem like there were no feelings between them. No wonder he showed her no sympathy.

So, Adrian figured that the key to the whole marriage situation was Barney. Barney was the key!

Adrian felt that he needed to handle both Cordelia and Ronan, while also keeping up relations with Jamie. He had always been trying to push Jamie and Cordelia together.

"No wonder Ronan treats Cordelia so badly." Jamie exclaimed angrily, "How dare he treat Della like this! He's going too far!"

Upon hearing this, Adrian thought to himself, "There's hope yet! The Colby family turned out to be more reliable."

He didn't bring up Cordelia and Logan, fearing that Jamie might have doubts and reservations if he knew about Cordelia's first love.

"I hope they get divorced soon so that Ronan won't mistreat my sister anymore. It's just a marriage of convenience after all!" Adrian said with a righteous expression, looking every bit the protective older brother.

“How do you know they’ll get divorced?” Jamie asked.

“Well, isn’t it obvious? A loveless marriage is bound to have an expiration date. Do you really think Ronan will never marry someone he loves? He’s loaded, why would he put up with this?” Adrian argued as if it was a given.

Jamie found Adrian’s words very convincing. After his training course ended, he had initially thought that Cordelia was already married and he had planned to quietly quit, to let go of his hopes. But Adrian’s words reignited the flame of hope in Jamie’s heart.

Things weren’t going so smoothly for Cordelia lately. If she had remained a regular employee, no one would have been pointing fingers at her. If she had married Ronan, she would have been surrounded by praises. But her situation was rather unique. From an obscure employee, she had shot to stardom and crash back down.

It seemed like people enjoyed watching her rise and then fall hard. The sounds of mocking and ridicule kept ringing in her ears.

Jordan often made Cordelia work overtime and assigned her the heaviest tasks, under the pretext that young people needed to toughen up.

Cordelia didn’t complain, she just quietly got on with her work. She knew Jordan was deliberately making things difficult for her, but she didn’t hold it against him. After all, power came with responsibility. She did rely on Ronan to get out of her financial woes, so she was okay with facing a bit of backlash now.

One day, Cordelia didn’t finish work until five in the morning. As she packed her bag, she stared at the umbrella inside and fell into deep thought. She wanted to see Ronan again, but never got the chance.

As Cordelia was in the elevator yawning and clutching her bag, a man appeared before her. Thinking she was seeing things due to fatigue, she

went. Cordelia was pleasantly surprised

but never got the chance. Maybe her prayers had been answered. And now here he was standing right in front

Chapter 37

a sad realization of pregnancy as the law when Cantella spent her

Fedete zakaj mik

Tise nisam Brees deh, and tuman dubh make t

wapan) * She then exhaled, though she hung

set canume bay we tuffed with a wams of things a water brekka, ses An umbrella want big. But Bruding it wasn't exactly a piece of cake what suit being able send h. Cada charted feeding guilty and gave an assboard smile to Roman

"You jungea eti wakanah that her a frown.

Ranah Tamly smiled, his face mostly expressionless

"Yes Found It" Cordelia said, quickly pulling out the umbrella, "Mr. Evans, here's an umbrella. Don't want you to catch a cold"

Manan looked at the umbrella, but didn't take it, "So, what's this for?"

He thought she was just trying to butter him up with an umbrella. After all the way the boss treated her determined her position within the company Cordelia's current situation wasn't good. The fact that she had to work until 5am was evidence enough.

This is an umbrella." There was a look of innocence in Cordelia's clear eyes. "You never use an umbrella when it's raining. What if you catch a cold?" She even pushed the umbrella towards him a bit

Seeing that Ronan still didn't take it, she suddenly realized, "Mr. Evans, this umbrella was sent to me by a classmate from abroad. It's not some mediocre brand. It's a high end foreign brand, quite pricey."

"You got this especially for me?" Ronan finally took the umbrella. He glanced at the eagle on the handle.

"Yes, it suits your status. Remember to use it." With that, Cordelia turned around and left.

Ronan entered the elevator, his tense mood slightly eased.

Cordelia got back to her dorm, just as Brooklyn was getting up to go to the bathroom. Brooklyn asked, "You're up this early?"

Coming out of the bathroom, Brooklyn muttered, "Could have slept for another two hours."

Then, she suddenly remembered something, "Wait, Cordelia, you just got back, right?"

"Yeah, I need to lie down for a bit." Cordelia hung her bag on the door.

Brooklyn instantly woke up, "How is this okay? Why is it that only you have to work overtime in the Finance Department? Do they think they've been too nice to you before and now want to bring you down a peg or two? Is this even fair?"

"It's okay. I didn't say anything. Why are you getting worked up?" Cordelia was simply too exhausted and fell asleep as soon as her head hit the pillow, not saying another word.

Brooklyn couldn't hold it in and gave up on the golden opportunity to go back to sleep. Instead, she got on the computer and started venting on Chatterbox. She complained some people just go with the crowd. They were a bunch of fair-weather friends, who would bully and mock others when they hit rock bottom.

This was just a rant. No one was explicitly mentioned, and nor pictures were posted. But everyone knew she was talking about Jordan. After all, Cordelia was the only one who had to work until the wee hours in the morning due to his arrangement.

Only after posting did Brooklyn go back to sleep. She was woken up by her phone ringing. The head of PR Department wanted her to come to the office after she got to work.

“Whatever, what am I scared of anyway? Screw this job. I can quit anytime!” Brooklyn was resolute, “Everyone in this company is the same anyway.”

“What happened?” Cordelia, just up and combing her hair, asked Brooklyn with concern.

“Nothing!” Brooklyn said.

After Brooklyn went to the director’s office, she was given a severe dressing down. The director said she liked to take the spotlight and blindly spoken up for others. He even said, “The relationship between departments is so delicate. Are you dumb or just incapable of thinking? If you piss off the Finance Department, who’s going to pay you? From today, you don’t have to attend training every Friday. Also, that article you were going to post on the platform has been cancelled due to layout issues. You can leave now.”

Even though Brooklyn was pissed off, she didn’t regret it.

Cordelia didn’t find out what happened until she got to work, her colleagues were all whispering about her. She sent a message to Brooklyn asking her to delete the post. Brooklyn was still in the director’s office and didn’t see it. By the time she saw it, she thought, “Since I’ve already been punished, what difference does it make if I delete it or not? Let everyone see Jordan’s true colors.”

Jordan, with a grim expression, sarcastically said to Cordelia, “Cordelia, your good friend really cares about you, huh? It’s quite something.”

What could Cordelia say. If Brooklyn insisted on not deleting the post, there was nothing she could do. Cordelia knew that Jordan had a major beef with her. This wasn’t Brooklyn’s fault. Since she officially joined the company, Jordan had been looking for a chance to kick her to the curb.

Chapter 38

Passing off her boss was inevitable. To avoid giving Jordan any ammunition, Cordelia had to work even harder to ensure he couldn’t pick on her

to message Barney on WhatsApp. work But there was one thing she made time for every night, no matter how busy she was →

was a habit she'd kept up since she moved out of the Evans family's house. She'd send Barney loads of pictures of Southern Ridge, where she was supposedly currently on a business trip.

When Barney would ask her when she was coming home, she'd reply, "Barney, work's really hectic here. I might need to stick around a bit longer." "Delia, I really miss you. When are you going to come back and visit this old man?" Barney asked.

Reading this, Cordelia felt a lump in her throat. It was something her parents used to say to her. Now, there was nobody left to tell her that. Sure, she had friends and colleagues, but they couldn't replace the power of family.

Cordelia replied, "Grandpa, I miss you too. I'll visit you when I get a chance."

Barney removed his reading glasses and held his phone. He walked into the living room, and asked Ronan, "When are you going to let Della come back? She's been gone for ages."

"What did she tell you?" Ronan flicked through a finance magazine distractedly.

"She sent me pictures of Southern Ridge, said work was crazy there, and she'd need more time. Ronan, can't you talk to her boss? Get her to come back sooner? I know I shouldn't interfere with her work, but my old body ain't getting any younger." Barney had started to plead with Ronan. Cordelia hadn't messaged Ronan at all in the past two weeks. Their last chat was a fortnight ago. But she was constantly chatting with Barney. The contrast made Ronan feel ignored.

Messaging Barney wasn't something they had discussed beforehand. Maybe it was because Cordelia was kind, or maybe Barney was her last chance to get back to the house.

She must know that once she won Barney over, Ronan would give in. Cordelia might be getting desperate because her current situation was tough.

Despite this, Ronan had no plans to let her come back! Even though their marriage was just a formality, he couldn't stand the thought of her pining for another man. It was agonizing. But thinking about the umbrella Cordelia gave him, his heart softened. She seemed sincere, and she even bought the umbrella from abroad.

It would be easy for him to change her circumstances.

Ronan opened Cordelia's Facebook page. She didn't post much, mostly pictures from the internet and notes about her accounting exams.

But yesterday morning, she added a new post: New day, gotta keep going! Attached was a picture of her breakfast: a fried egg, a piece of toast, and a glass of milk.

Ronan gave her a like. Soon, many others started to like Cordelia's post, including Jordan and many colleagues. Before long, Cordelia's Facebook post had received 108 likes.

Cordelia thought, surprised, "The Ronan effect is really something. But why would he like my post?"

Everyone was confused by Ronan's actions. It seemed like they hadn't broken up, but just had a fight. Now they were back on good terms. Everyone was sweating bullets, fearing they had somehow messed up.

The next day, something even stranger happened.

When Cordelia walked into the office, Jordan greeted her specially, saying, "Cordelia, you're here? There's a shortlist for the company's Lumos

this time." Star award every year, to replace those who don't do well in training. I've recommended you

"Emm." Cordelia seemed a bit nervous.

Soon, Brooklyn messaged Cordelia: [Cordelia, my article that was pulled has been reinstated, and they've also reinstated my Lumos Star status. Can you believe it?]

Cordelia quickly realized this was all thanks to Ronan. His casual 'like' on her post yesterday had changed the company's opinion of her. A small action from him, and the company had to make big moves.

Cordelia felt a chill down her spine, wondering if Ronan thought of these butterfly effects when he liked her post.

So what did Ronan's action mean? Was he trying to help her? Or did he just accidentally like her post?

bot

Chapter 39

ed by Dennie Street in the aftansson He hearty netherbed that Logan's house war on
Denni

ageant ware just Üvedala k first love, and he had no corection to me I had no reason to g
settei off him, he had the driver put over the car and he went to Logan Rosa atone

men on the title page of his diary. Reznan didn't kinder if he was just too focused on this
or his memory was past that good. Logere address crystal clear

A middle-aged woman answered the doce

thie Logaris heute?" Ronan asked

"Yes, you are?"

Twas Logan's partner when he was teaching in remote areas. Just call me Mr. Evens. I
originally planned to donate computers to their school, but it's a pity what happened to
Logan." Ronan said.

"Well, alright, Mr. Evens. Please come in." Said Logan's mom, a woman named Whitney,
who warmly pulled Ronan into the house. Ever since Logan's death, she treated all of
Logan's friends with such warmth, as if she could see her son in them.

Logan's dad, Lawsen, was cooking in the kitchen. Whitney introduced him, "This is Mr.
Evens, a friend from when Logan was a teacher." "Mr. Evens, hello." Lawsen greeted
him warmly too, but he was too busy cooking to shake hands. "Mr. Evens, why don't you
join us for dinner tonight?"

Logan's parents were both honest and down-to-earth people.

"We'll see. Ronan replied, but he remained mostly silent.

He noticed a picture hanging in the living room. It was Logan, who was indeed
handsome. Sacrificing himself to save others, not many people in the world could match
that.

“Logan... Whitney couldn’t even finish her sentence before tears started to fall. “Logan went to remote areas to teach children. We fully supported his decision, but we didn’t expect this to happen.”

“This is just a small token.” Ronan said, pulling out a wad of cash and handing it to Whitney.

“No, we can’t take this money. Please take it back, Mr. Evens. If you try to give us money again, I’m afraid I have to ask you to leave.”

Ronan had no choice but to take the money back. “I’ll leave you my number. If you need anything, feel free to call me.” Ronan said.

He gave them his assistant’s private number, which was unknown to anyone at the company. He was curious to see whether Cordelia would try to contact this number, given that “Mr. Evens” was a friend of Logan and worked in the computer industry.

Ronan wasn’t sure what he was up to, setting a trap for Cordelia. He returned to his office.

Whitney called Cordelia to tell her about a friend of Logan’s who came to visit, and mentioned that this Mr. Evens was in the computer business and had planned to donate computers to Logan’s school.

Since Logan’s death, Whitney had been meticulously informing Cordelia about anything related to him.

“Computers?” Cordelia repeated.

She had already received the money and had been searching online for reliable computer suppliers. Since he was Logan’s friend and had previously expressed the willingness to donate, he was probably trustworthy. Cordelia was somewhat pleased at the good news.

“Right, he was planning to donate, but unfortunately, Logan had this accident.”

“Whitney, do you have his contact information?”

“Wait a moment, I’ll tell you.” Whitney then gave Cordelia the number Ronan had left.

“Okay, I’ll contact him.”

“Della, is this a difficult thing to do?”

Donating computers would cost quite a bit. Cordelia didn't want Whitney to feel pressured, so she brushed it off.

After hanging up, Cordelia dialed the number. Of course, she had no idea that the person answering the call was Ronan's assistant.

Ronan had already briefed his assistant, so he knew how to respond.

At that moment, as Ronan was walking into his office, his assistant came over with the phone. “Mr. Evans, it's Cordelia.” His assistant whispered, holding up the phone.

Ronan lit a cigarette, slammed the lighter on the desk and said sarcastically, “She's quick. Answer her as I told you.”

In the end, Cordelia and the assistant agreed: this Saturday, Cordelia would visit the computer factory in the suburbs. The assistant sent her the specific location on WhatsApp.

Ronan had previously acquired a small computer company for OEM production, and now it was finally coming in handy.

He had set a trap, and she had taken the bait.

Chapter 40

ine thing was

essent, Dendentis fede ervsrennady happy, even a bit exciteit. They was her best time Randing a Franeaction voting tone of

out running with a

ver or some bad ng the ked Brooklyn to accompany and was no longer a scaredy-cat, beating a te confident in herealt. She was more than willing to lend Cordeta a hand

unly, in this case, it would be best if we brought along a male friend if you asked Mr Evans to come with you, who would dare to cheat him? 1

one would dare, Brooklyn said, munching on her snacks while chatting with Cordelia.

“is it that single? We are having some issues right now. Plus, this matter involves my ex-boyfriend how could I possibly ask him to come with me?” Cordelia said.

“Why did you have to have a falling out with him? You saw it yourself, with just one like from him, your situation completely changed. Everyone respects him. Why did you have to pick a fight with him?” Brooklyn asked in confusion.

Don’t even mention it. I’ve always been pretty obedient to him.” Even now, Cordelia couldn’t understand why Ronan suddenly asked her to move out of his house.

How could she act according to his preferences if she didn’t even know what he was thinking?

“You should apologize to him and act a bit more obediently. Mr. Evans likes that sort of thing.” Brooklyn suggested.

How do you know? Have you done this before?” Cordelia asked, sounding a bit jealous.

“I wouldn’t dare I don’t even get a chance to meet Mr. Evans.” Brooklyn said, acting all innocent in front of Cordelia. “But seriously, this afternoon, my sister is sending me some food.”

Your sister? Isn’t she about to have a baby? Doesn’t it make you feel guilty that she’s lugging around a big belly to deliver food to you?”

“She won’t come herself, she’ll send her brother-in-law. I heard he’s quite impressive,” Brooklyn said, her face full of admiration.

“You’ve never met him?”

Brooklyn shot Cordelia a glance. “No. He wasn’t at her wedding. I think he was out of town.”

“I can check him out for you this afternoon.”

At six o’clock in the afternoon, the doorbell rang, and Cordelia went to open the door. As soon as she opened the door, she was taken aback. *Edwin?”

“Cordelia?”

“Who are you looking for? Me?”

Edwin held up the bag in his hand, “My sister-in-law asked me to deliver some food to her beloved little sister. I didn’t expect you two to be roommates. How convenient.”

Brooklyn came out and saw that Edwin was indeed handsome, and her eyes lit up.

“How about I treat you two lovely ladies to dinner tonight?” Edwin suggested.

“What about the food Brooklyn’s sister sent?” Cordelia asked, frowning.

Brooklyn was already hooked. After all, who wouldn’t want to have dinner with a handsome guy?

“That food can be put in the fridge to eat slowly, it won’t go bad. Come on, I’ll treat you to some barbecue,” Edwin said enthusiastically.

Cordelia and Brooklyn had been under a lot of stress recently and needed to relax, so they readily accepted the offer. Plus, Cordelia loved spicy food. The spicier, the better.

While eating, Edwin asked Cordelia, “We’ve never chatted since becoming friends on WhatsApp. So you work at Lumos Enterprises. Big things are in your future.”

“For a grassroots worker like me, the future is limited. Brooklyn has a broader future. After all, she’s a Lumos Star, the future senior manager,” Cordelia said this while also expressing her admiration for Brooklyn.

Cordelia noticed that Brooklyn had a crush on Edwin, and she had to make a push for her best friend. Brooklyn and Edwin had already exchanged contact information.

“By the way, on Sunday I’m going to visit a computer factory in the suburbs. We’ve never been there before, and we’re worried about getting scammed. We thought about bringing a male friend along. Would you like to come with us?” Brooklyn invited Edwin. “My sister once told me that her brother-in-law runs a gaming company and has a deep understanding of the computer industry, so I think you are the most suitable candidate.”

“Visit a computer factory? No problem, I can drive you two ladies there. Are you planning to buy computers? Why not just go to the computer mall? Why go directly to the factory?”

“We plan to buy two hundred computers and donate them to children in remote areas. It’s the same school we visited together before,” Cordelia explained casually, since she and Edwin had visited that primary school together.

“Two hundred computers, that’s a generous investment.”

ordelia prepared framing that

sound was try the countrysão, a biasa Comana has ever durant la alam seti Fortunately, Edwin dem pry

vaaka say “That she got the Money Unogah a sham mamaga