

The Contracted Ever After Chapter 41 - 45

Chapter 41

Sunday at 10 am

Edwin picked up Brooklyn and Cordelia in his Audi from the downnet virs of their apartment building. They destination was a factory iscated suburban area that had developed in recent years. The area was predominantly filled with factories, and it was spacious with very few people around

They arrived at 1 pm.

Zach, the factory manager, warmly welcomed them, showed them arou d the workshop, and introduced them to the processors in detail

“Can these computers delivered to Cedar Hollow?” Cordelia asked.

*Absolutely We have a robust logistics system at our factory, Ms. Haselwood. You can rest assured”

Cordelia nodded in acknowledgment.

Meanwhile, Ronan was sitting in the manager’s office, monitoring the factory’s surveillance footage. As soon as Cordelia and the others walked

in, Ronan noticed them.

Seeing Edwin by her side, he thought to himself: Figures. His wife was a truly charming woman, always surrounded by different men.

The training course was over, and her relationship with Jamie was over. Now she was with Edwin

“If I wanted to buy two hundred units, what would be the price?” Cordelia was impressed with the quality of the computers and the advanced logistics, so she wanted to place an order as soon as possible.

Edwin, who owned a gaming company and was very knowledgeable about computers, was also impressed with the factory’s products. Zach furrowed his brows slightly. As for the price, I’m afraid that’s out of my hands. We’ll have to bring in the president for that.”

“Do you mean Mr. Evens?” Cordelia remembered that the person she spoke with on the phone was Mr. Evens.

“Well, no, not him. Our company was bought out. We’re going OEM, and it’s the higher-ups in our parent company who call the shots. Let me give them a call.” With that, Zach stepped away to make a phone call.

In the meantime, Cordelia was discussing the price with Edwin.

“If you’re purchasing in bulk, it should be about 3500 bucks a unit. See if you can swing that,” Edwin, being an expert in the field, suggested. Cordelia nodded, thinking to herself that this time Brooklyn had made the right choice in seeking Edwin’s help for the assessment.

Suddenly, Edwin received a text from Big Bro: [Don’t let on that you know me later.]

Edwin frowned, not quite understanding.

Ronan was the “Big Bro” Edwin referred to. Three years ago, Edwin started a gaming company but it was failing. With no other option, he applied to be Ronan’s chauffeur at Lumos Enterprises.

After learning about his experience, Ronan said, “Look, don’t be a chauffeur anymore. Start over where you failed.”

Ronan invested \$200,000, which saved Edwin’s company from bankruptcy.

Grateful to Ronan, Edwin saved his contact as “Big Bro” and sent him well wishes on important days. However, Ronan never replied.

Given that he had accepted Ronan’s help, Edwin felt the need to repay the favor. If Ronan wanted him to pretend they didn’t know each other, he would do his best.

But the word later puzzled Edwin. Could it be that Ronan was in this small factory right now?

“Our boss is here,” Zach announced. “Ms. Haselwood, you can discuss the price with him.”

Since the workshop was long, they were standing at the far end of it. Cordelia looked at the man approaching from a distance and was completely taken aback.

How could it be Ronan?

Ronan was striding towards them step by step. Cordelia’s emotions were in turmoil as she quickly thought. In theory, a high-ranking person like Ronan wouldn’t personally come to such a small factory. Yet, here he was, ready to discuss prices with her personally.

Wasn’t that strange? Did he already know something?

Cordelia tried to find a photo of Ronan on her phone, but there was none in her album.

Brooklyn, standing next to her, tugged at Cordelia's sleeve. "What should we do? That's Mr. Evans. What if he finds out you're here because of your first love? How would he react?"

"Stay calm." Cordelia downloaded a picture of Ronan from the Internet and sent it to Whitney.

[Whitney, is this the manager you met that day?]

Cordelia's intuition told her that Ronan must have come prepared this time. Otherwise, he would never spend his weekend in this small factory.

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Noong wher, Whitney's message pame through "Yes, thats him He looks dote Pandemie "

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Cordelia immediately sent a message to Janice Janice, did you find my Driver's License in my suitcase when you helped me innår for it?" Before Janice could reply, Ronan had already walked over.

"McEvans, Ma Haselwood wants to discuss prices with you. She needs two hundred computers," Zach said

"Really? She's an employee of our company, what does she need two hundred computers for?" Ronan asked with a calm smile, his gazes deep and unreadable

Brooklyn was somewhat spooked. Edwin also had no clue what Ronan was up to. He guessed that Ronan didn't want to reveal their relationship in front of his subordinates.

Ronan wanted to gather more information from him.

Unbeknownst to him, Edwin had become Ronan's mole.

"Well, here's the thing. I used to have a boyfriend named Logan. He was a teacher in Cedar Hollow. His wish was to donate two hundred computers to the primary school children he taught. Unfortunately, he sacrificed his life trying to save a child from drowning. I want to help him fulfill this wish, Cordelia said candidly.

Since Ronan already knew, she might as well just say it.

"Really? Is that so?" Ronan laughed, "Were you and your ex-boyfriend very in love?"

Cordelia paused. Her relationship with Logan was clearly recorded in the diary.

She didn't bother hiding it anymore, "We were very in love. We were even planning to get married."

Brooklyn, who was unaware of the situation, anxiously squeezed Cordelia's hand, blaming her for being crazy. Even if she wanted to make Ronan jealous, she didn't have to go this far.

Ronan narrowed his eyes, and his gaze turned icy. Knowing that Cordelia had such deep feelings for her first love, Ronan's mood worsened. His tone became more confrontational, and his coldness towards Cordelia more apparent.

"Is that so? But the cost of two hundred computers isn't cheap. Even if you're willing, it'll cost tens of thousands of dollars. You're so young, unless you come from a wealthy family, how could you have so much money?" Ronan stared at Cordelia intently.

"I saved up for it." Cordelia said firmly.

"Well, saved up?" Ronan laughed, "To save, you need to earn enough money first. How did you earn it?"

Cordelia's face turned pale. She couldn't reveal how she earned the money in front of Brooklyn, Edwin, and Zach. She obtained this money from Ronan through selling herself, through unsavory means.

"Mr. Evans, Cordelia is a member of the Finance Department, and she's very meticulous with her accounts and would never engage in any improper behavior. Plus, she's not the cashier, and she doesn't handle cash directly. You must trust Cordelia," Brooklyn quickly

defended Cordelia, thinking that Ronan might suspect Cordelia of having a shady source of income. Cordelia's job duties made her position sensitive.

Hearing Brooklyn's explanation, Edwin realized that Ronan didn't want them to mention their relationship because he wanted to learn about the source of Cordelia's money from Edwin.

"Is that so? If it's for a donation to a primary school, then we'll treat it as a donation from Lumos Enterprises. The money will be paid by the company's special funds, which will alleviate your financial burden," Ronan said casually.

Cordelia clenched her fists and gave a soft reply. Although she didn't have to pay now, she wasn't happy. She originally thought that the rural students would think of her and Logan when they used the computers. But now, they would remember Lumos Enterprises and Ronan instead.

Ronan's strategy was deeply calculated. Now Cordelia was just a tool for him to use.

Ronan instructed Zach to buy two hundred computers and deliver them to the primary school in Cedar Hollow as soon as possible.

"What's the address? You haven't told me the address yet, have you?" Ronan slightly frowned and asked Cordelia.

"Well, I know," Edwin said, "I ran into Cordelia near that primary school last time."

"Well? When was that?" Ronan asked Edwin with a smile, his gaze drifting over Cordelia.

What a coincidence..

"I remember it clearly, it was Monday. The address is Evergreen Primary School in Cedar Hollow. I'll send you the exact location."

Cordelia's face was now extremely pale. Today, under Ronan's questioning, all her secrets couldn't be kept, including the fact that she didn't answer Ronan's call because she went to Cedar Hollow that day.

Janice's message only came back at this time: "Ma'am, I was cleaning up just now, so I only saw your message. I found your Driver's License in your washed canvas bag. Mr. Evans was looking for your Driver's License in your suitcase at the time."

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Now it was clear. He knew everything.

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That day. Cordelia received a call from one in the office "Hells, Mr. Evarit Since everyone in the office knew, Cordelia just directly addressed han as "Mr Evans

Sure enough, everyone in the office perked up their ears.

My grandfather fainted, but I'm out of town for a meeting. Can you go home and check on him?" Even though the situation was urgent, Ronan's voice was still calm.

"What?" Cordelia cared a lot about Barney and immediately agreed, "I take a leave right away"

After ending the call with Ronan, Cordelia went to ask Jordan for leave. Jordan immediately agreed and told Cordelia to take care and come back when things were sorted out.

When Cordelia arrived at Pearl Palms, she saw Deanna taking care of Barney. She did seem to come quite frequently. If it weren't for her deep affection for Barney, Cordelia wouldn't want to go in under these circumstances.

She quietly walked over to Deanna.

Deanna was using a wet towel to wipe Barney's lips, afraid they would get too dry.

"Why are you only here now?" Deanna reproached, "Thankfully we have medical equipment at home. The doctor said Barney's blood sugar dropped, and they've already given him glucose.*"

"This isn't a movie. You're not doing this professionally. Let me do it." Cordelia said lightly.

She could tell at a glance that Deanna was just pretending to be caring. Maybe that was how she did it while acting, but this was not how to take care of a real patient.

"Well, really? I'm not familiar with taking care of the sick, I don't have experience, you do it then." Deanna said, smiling as she left her seat and stood next to Cordelia.

Cordelia carefully wiped Barney's lips. She had taken care of her father for several days and her mother for six years. Despite her young age, Cordelia had a lot of experience taking care of bedridden patients. Even though Deanna's words seemed fine, Cordelia could hear the sarcasm in them.

Deanna felt a bit ashamed seeing how Cordelia took care of Barney compared to her own method.

"Ronan really didn't choose wrong. If it were me, I couldn't do these things. Deanna said with a smile, "If something happened to Barney, I might not be up to the task, but you're different. You're like a real nurse."

Deanna's words were clear. Ronan marrying Cordelia was like marrying a nurse. Moreover, it sounded like it wasn't Ronan who didn't want to marry Deanna, but Deanna who didn't want to marry.

Whether intentionally or unintentionally, Deanna flicked her hair with her right hand as she spoke. A shiny bracelet on her wrist was exposed in front of Cordelia. And on it, the two names were clearly visible, a combination of Ronan and Deanna's names.

Cordelia knew exactly why Deanna was flaunting this in front of her.

Combining Deanna's words from earlier, Cordelia speculated that Ronan might have informed Deanna about their agreement to get married. Perhaps he intended to marry Deanna in the future and had asked her to be patient, assuring her that he would soon divorce.

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Just as Cordelia was taking care of Barney, Deanna jumped in, “Alright, you’ve done enough. It’s my turn.”

Without thinking twice, Cordelia got up. Just at that moment, Ronan walked in. Deanna’s interruption was perfectly timed.

Seeing Ronan, Cordelia was instantly reminded of the awkward situation when they were buying the computers.

He glanced at Barney, adjusted the IV drip to be slower, and then said to Cordelia seriously, “Come out with me.”

Cordelia had no choice but to follow him out.

They reached a corridor a bit further from Barney’s bedroom, and Ronan asked Cordelia to lean against the wall.

“Why would you let her do such heavy work?” he asked harshly.

Cordelia thought resentfully, why can’t she do this work?

“When do you plan to divorce?” Due to her bad mood and the computer purchase matter, Cordelia’s tone was also a bit unpleasant.

Obviously, her question caught Ronan off guard. “Are you looking forward to the divorce?” He frowned at her.

“Deanna’s back, and I’ve moved out. I think a divorce is just a matter of time. I just want to know when, or else I’ll feel uneasy.” Cordelia looked up, but not at Ronan.

“Well, really? Do you not understand why I asked you to move out? Or do you want to come back to make money?” His mockery was heavy, “Right, you’ve bought your computer, so you’re not short on cash now.”

“Do you really have to do this for Logan? He’s not even alive anymore, so what are you still holding onto? What about you snooping on my diary? That’s private. I could sue you.” Cordelia stared into his eyes.

“Then go ahead.”

Cordelia knew her threats wouldn’t scare Ronan; he might even find it amusing. She huffed and turned her head away.

“You stand here.”

“When are we getting a divorce?” *She* asked again.

Just be Mrs. Evans for now.” After saying this, Ronan went into Barney’s room.

It seemed Cordelia still had to play the role of Mrs. Evans for a while. Probably until Barney passed away, then he would break off the fake engagement and marry Deanna.

“Cheapskate.” After Ronan left, Cordelia muttered under her breath.

Unexpectedly, his footsteps suddenly stopped, then he came back. “What did you say?” He asked with a frown.

Cordelia lowered her head, “Nothing. You’re really handsome.”

He knew that wasn’t what she said, but he didn’t want to argue, so he walked away.

When he entered the room, Barney was awake, and he asked Ronan, “Where’s Della? Is she back?”

“She’s back. She’s outside.”

“Hurry, let her in.” Barney waved his hand eagerly.

“Barney, I’ll go get her.” Deanna then left the room.

Seeing Cordelia standing against the wall, a strange smile appeared on Deanna’s lips, “He really treats you like a nurse, huh? Go on, Barney’s calling for you.”

Upon hearing those words, Cordelia felt wronged and excluded.

Seeing Cordelia, Barney immediately smiled, “Della, are you back from your business trip? Are you planning to stay?”

Cordelia didn’t dare answer casually, she snuck a glance at Ronan.

“Yes, she’s staying at home now.”

“Well, are you two having a fight? You’ve just got married, haven’t you? Ronan, that’s not right.” Deanna patted Ronan’s shoulder, pretending to be concerned. As if she had a say in their relationship.

“I have work this afternoon, I have to go.” Deanna stood there gracefully, “I didn’t drive today. Ronan, could you give me a lift?”

She completely ignored Cordelia’s presence.

Out of chivalry, and given the villa’s remote location which made hailing a cab inconvenient, Ronan decided to drive Deanna away.

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In the bedroom, only Cordelia Haselwood and Barney Evans remained

“Barney you want something to eat? I can whip up some porridge for you.” Cordelia hadn’t seen Barney in a while, her eyes misty with uns tears.

“Nah, I’m good. Actually. Bamey sat up on the bed, edging closer to Cordella, “I faked that fainting earlier.”

Cordelia looked taken aback, “Why would you do that?”

“To get you to come see me. I know I don’t have much time left, and not much time left with you.”

Hearing this, Cordelia’s tears started to flow, choking out, “Barney.”

“Theard what Deanna Stains said earlier. Six years ago, I already didn’t like her. I always felt like she had a lot of ulterior motives. I’ve got your back, but you gotta toughen up too. Stop letting Rohan kick you out and giving Deanna the upper hand.” Barney said gently.

“Barney, how did you know?” Cordelia asked, her face damp with tears. She felt embarrassed, not expecting Barney to have figured it out.

“I’m not getting any younger, what can’t I see?”

Cordelia’s heart skipped a beat. Did Barney know about her agreement to marry Ronan?

What should she do if Barney found out?

“Listen to me and stay strong. Ronan’s a stubborn kid, be gentle with him.”

Cordelia nodded, “Got it.”

“He’s older than you and should take care of you, but sometimes, you gotta give in too.”

Barney advised gently.

“Alright. Barney, have an orange.” Cordelia peeled an orange for Barney.

When Deanna got in the car, she noticed an umbrella on the passenger seat.

It was a designer umbrella from Europe, with an eagle on the handle.

Deanna remembered, Ronan Evans never used umbrellas.

He liked to walk in the rain alone, and there had never been an umbrella in his car.

There was no way he would suddenly change his habits after all these years.

So this umbrella definitely wasn’t his.

It was clear who bought it.

Deanna was both jealous and angry.

“Ronan, how did you end up with a knock-off umbrella?” Deanna held the umbrella, asking Ronan.

Ronan never used umbrellas and naturally wouldn’t know anything about the brand, much less tell if it was real or fake.

“What?” Ronan had already started the car.

“This is a knock-off. You got scammed, didn’t you?” Deanna pretended to inspect the umbrella.

“Really?” Ronan frowned, not knowing what “surprise” Cordelia had in store for him this time.

“Yeah, the real deal should cost over 900 bucks. Judging by the workmanship, this is less than a twentieth of the real deal.” Deanna seemed amused, “Ronan, using this umbrella makes you look pathetic. If your clients see it, they might think Lumos Enterprises is all show. Should I just toss it?”

“No need. Just leave it there.” Ronan’s voice sent chills down the spine.

Deanna just smiled and put the umbrella down.

She guessed that Ronan wouldn’t verify if it was real or not. He wouldn’t have the time, and he would just take it out on Cordelia.

His attitude towards Cordelia today had pleased Deanna immensely.

She believed given some time, she could tear them apart for good.

When Deanna was leaving, she said to Ronan, “That girl, she’s from a simple background and doesn’t understand a lot of things. Don’t be too hard on her, being too harsh could backfire. You hear me, Ronan?”

“I’m leaving.” With that, Ronan drove off.

On the road, he glanced over at the umbrella.

Even if the umbrella was worth 900, Cordelia could have bought a cheaper one if she didn’t want to spend that much. What did Cordelia take him for?

Also, the money Cordelia had was given by him, yet not a dime was spent on him.

When he got home and locked the car, Ronan received a message on Messenger from Edwin

[Bro. about the computer thing, don't get it twisted and think Cordelia had ulterior motives. She told me she paid for it with the money from selling her dad's house.]

Ronan clenched his teeth, there was no shortage of people coming to her defense.

It seemed if he didn't make her suffer a bit, he would be doing a disservice to these people defending her.

He didn't understand why Edwin suddenly brought up the computer thing today.

To make him angrier?

It just pissed him off.