

## **Chapter 161 The Toad Eating Swan Meat**

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The phone was in Penny's pocket, and she had no idea who was calling her tonight. Even if she had

silenced it, the calls kept coming one after another.

It seemed that Penny hadn't checked her horoscope before going out today.

The phone kept ringing persistently, as if it would never stop if she didn't answer.

At this point, Penny felt trapped with no way out. She contemplated how she would explain herself to

Orlando once he saw her face clearly, hoping to prevent him from immediately blacklisting her.

On this stormy night, with thunder rumbling outside, the only sound indoors was the ringing phone.

Penny lowered her head, intending to take out her phone.

"Mr. Fletcher, actually, I..."

Before she could finish her sentence, another thunderclap sounded from outside the window, although

there was no lightning, so the room remained pitch black.

Because of this sudden thunder, Orlando, for a moment, couldn't quite catch the change in her tone of

voice.

Otherwise, he would have instantly recognized her as his designer.

However, at this moment, all he could hear was the thunder and the ringing phone.

Penny had given up and figured out how to apologize.

But just as she took out her phone from her pocket, it suddenly went completely dark.

It wasn't Penny who had silenced it; the battery had died, and the phone shut down.

She had been in a rush when she went out tonight and stayed at the hospital the whole night.

Therefore, she hadn't had a chance to charge her phone. With it continuously ringing just now, the

battery finally drained.

How fortunate.

It was so coincidental that Penny wondered if she had saved the galaxy in her previous life, which is

why she still had a chance at this point.

Orlando also noticed that her phone had shut down. They were now close to each other, and her scent

was even more familiar, but he couldn't recall where he had encountered it before.

"Mr. Fletcher, I'm new here and accidentally broke a dish earlier. I'm a bit nervous."

It turned out that she was squatting there sneakily, picking up the broken pieces of the bowl.

She didn't know where the fuse was because she was new.

"Anika said we must be fully focused when facing you, and we're all afraid of making mistakes."

When she said these words, her voice was very low and filled with fear.

Orlando frowned and released her wrist.

He was not used to being too close to women; having their skin touching made him uncomfortable.

Grabbing her wrist just now was an unconscious act.

Now that he let go of her, he realized that he had been holding on for a minute.

He rubbed his temple, wondering if Rex had been pressuring him too much lately, causing him to be affected.

"I understood."

His tone remained calm as he walked out first. "It's dark inside; be careful."

Penny stood in place, relieved when she heard his footsteps fade away.

Once she confirmed that he had gone upstairs, she slowly made her way up.

Back in her own bedroom, she plugged in her phone to charge and noticed that Cason had called. He

asked her to take Orlando to the Stuart's mansion tomorrow night, as the Stuart family had prepared dinner.

This was something he had previously requested, but Penny found it annoying.

Orlando despised her identity, so how could he willingly go there?

Thinking back to the thrilling scene with Orlando just now, it was clear that she couldn't stay at Hills

Villa any longer.

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The next morning, she didn't leave the house. Instead, she waited for Orlando to leave first.

When Anika informed her that Orlando had left, Penny finally felt relieved.

Being under the same roof as him made even taking deep breaths difficult.

After breakfast, she went to the back room to check on Niko. He had been kept inside recently, and his

barks weren't as clear as before, which made Penny feel sorry for him.

She needed to move out of Hills Villa quickly to make sure Niko wouldn't be harmed.

Thankfully, the new house she bought was big enough for both her and Niko without feeling too

cramped.

"Woof woof woof!" Niko excitedly circled her, leaving a trail with his wagging tail.

Penny patted his head and took him for a walk around the Hills Villa neighborhood before heading to

Valenworth Company to finalize some work-related matters and sign some papers.

Since they were going to start construction, she needed to personally inform Orlando, the homeowner.

Penny made a trip to the Fletcher Group and encountered the annoying Lydia again.

Lydia had just finished calling Angie, saying that she would help keep an eye on Orlando when she

saw Penny coming to the company.

It hadn't been long since they last met, but this woman was already irritating. Clearly, she was using

work as an excuse to try to get close to Orlando.

"Some people always dream of eating swan meat while being a frog," Lydia remarked disdainfully as

she slammed the papers on the table.

"They never consider their own value and resort to cheap tactics, thinking they can hook people in.

They can use these tactics once or twice, but do they really think it'll work?"

Angie would be coming back soon, and Penny was just a clown jumping through hoops.

However, Penny seemed unaware of her own status and needed a wake-up call.

## **Chapter 162 A Vixen Woman**

Chapter 162 A Vixen Woman

Since Lydia didn't mention names, Penny pretended she wasn't referring to herself and calmly walked

past her.

Lydia thought she had made it obvious enough, but Penny completely ignored her!

That damn bitch!

She hurriedly approached and saw Penny knocking on Orlando's office door.

His voice came from inside.

"Come in."

Penny walked in, blocking Lydia, who was about to accuse her, outside the door.

Lydia rushed forward too quickly and almost bumped her nose into the closing door. Startled, she took

a few steps back to steady herself.

Her teeth were grinding together, and she stared intently at the office door, chuckling coldly. It seemed

like she would have to make another call to Angie.

She went to a corner and dialed Angie's phone.

Angie picked up quickly, her tone gentle.

"Lydia, what's wrong again? Is Orlando giving you a hard time at work?"

"Angie, remember the designer I told you about last time? Well, she came to the Fletcher Group to see

Orlando again today. And I forgot to mention that this designer followed Orlando to his hotel last time.

She even bought him cufflinks worth 35 thousand dollars. Angie, if you don't come back soon, I'm

afraid someone will snatch away Orlando."

A hint of malice flashed through Angie's eyes, followed by a frown.

"What does she look like?"

"She looks just like a vixen woman."

Angie became somewhat unsettled. It had been a long time since she and Orlando were on cold terms,

and though it was time to thaw their relationship, what if a beautiful woman appeared by his side and

he was tempted?

But thinking about what Orlando had said, that he wouldn't be swayed by other women, she felt reassured.

He had never had any scandals all these years. Even though he was married, his wife at home was

just for show, and he hadn't laid a finger on her until now.

How could a man like him easily fall for someone else?

However, she was still somewhat concerned about what Lydia had said.

"Lydia, I'll have someone deliver the cufflinks right away. Go and give them to Orlando. I'll make sure

the courier arrives within ten minutes. Do you remember what kind of cufflinks the designer bought?"

Lydia had a strong impression of the cufflinks and mentioned the brand name.

Angie acted quickly, and after ten minutes, someone called Lydia's phone and asked her to come

downstairs to pick up something.

Lydia was eager to embarrass Penny, so she practically ran to retrieve the cufflinks.

Inside the office, Penny diligently handed over all the documents to Orlando for review.

Orlando looked at them for a while and then signed them.

"Mr. Fletcher, don't you want to go to the construction site and take a look?"

In theory, on the first day of construction, the property owner should be present for the ribbon-cutting

ceremony.

But Orlando's status was unique. To put it plainly, he could probably earn enough for a house during

the time it took for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Orlando's expression remained indifferent. "No need."

"The construction team this time is Valenworth Company. I've already signed a contract with them, and

they can start working immediately. I can leave now if Mr. Fletcher has no objections to the materials. I

will gradually complete the rest of the furniture materials."

"Okay."

Orlando's gaze was fixed on the computer, but he was actually feeling uneasy.

It rained all night last night, and he had trouble sleeping.

His sleep quality had always been good, except when he needed to work late into the night. Other

times, he fell asleep quickly and maintained a regular schedule.

But for some reason last night, he felt that the maid was very familiar, similar to Penny, especially her

scent.

Orlando had many intimate contacts with Penny. Although all were all accidents, he knew her scent.

It was a very subtle fragrance. She didn't like to wear perfume, just the refreshing aroma of her

shampoo.

But how could Penny possibly be at Hills Villa?

He began to reflect on whether he had been in too much contact with her recently, leading to an

illusion.

It seemed necessary to distance himself from Penny.

## **Chapter 164 What Is She Pretending for Now**

Chapter 164 What Is She Pretending for Now

He injured his palm for her before, and the scar hasn't healed yet. After that, he even went to the

kidnapper's hideout to save her.



There were a few other occasions when she was like a jinx. Whenever he encountered her, nothing

good happened. But he didn't complain about any of that.

Isn't it reasonable for her to send him some soup?

Why does she seem so relieved now?

Orlando's eyes turned cold.

Penny, on the other hand, didn't look at anyone and left with the documents in hand.

Lydia naturally didn't want to miss the opportunity to mock her and quickly followed her.

As soon as the door closed, Lydia's triumphant expression became evident.

"You should finally give up now. Angie and Orlando have such a great relationship that no one can

intervene."

Penny found it amusing. She waited for the elevator and watched Lydia continue her mischief.

Lydia couldn't stand her arrogant attitude.

She was clearly trying to seduce Orlando, so what is she pretending for now?

"By the way, I saw someone in the group chat saying that you seemed quite close to Clark. I never

expected you to be so indiscriminate, flirting with so many men. No wonder Orlando doesn't think

highly of you."

The elevator arrived, and Penny stepped inside, continuing to ignore Lydia.

Lydia was so angry that her face turned red, and her neck swelled. She was like punching a cotton ball.

It didn't hurt, but she felt extremely stifled.

"You bitch!"

Finally unable to restrain herself, she followed her step by step and raised her hand to slap Penny.

Penny grabbed her wrist and pressed her against the wall, speaking in a cold tone.

"Lydia, I thought you had learned your lesson after suffering a loss. Do you think Angie knows about your feelings for Mr. Fletcher?"

Lydia's face instantly turned pale. This matter must never be known to Angie!

"Let go of me!"

Penny glanced at the surveillance camera. She didn't want to cause trouble here and have Orlando

come after her just to please Angie, since they were on the Fletcher Group's territory. So, she released

Lydia.

Since no one pressed the button, the elevator remained on the top floor without descending.

Neither of them noticed this issue.

Lydia wasn't the type to let things go easily. She didn't believe that she couldn't handle a mere

designer.

This woman seemed to have no background at all!

As soon as Penny let go of her, Lydia raised her hand to slap again.

Coldness flashed in Penny's eyes, and she kicked Lydia's knee with her foot.

The kick came unexpectedly. Although it didn't hurt much, the precision of the kick was remarkable,

causing Lydia to kneel directly.

Just at this moment, the elevator doors opened, revealing Orlando and a group of executives standing

outside.

The elevator had been stopped on the top floor and would only open if someone pressed a button from

outside.

Only now did Penny realize that she had forgotten to press the button for the first floor, and her lips tightened.

Lydia happened to be kneeling on the ground, her eyes turning red as she stood up, sobbing.

"Mr. Fletcher..."

Orlando raised his gaze, his eyes falling lightly on Penny.

He had already witnessed Penny's methods back at Chatville University. She was somewhat assertive in public and had good persuasive skills.

But he didn't expect her to dare to act like this within the Fletcher Group.

Before Orlando could speak, one of the executives interjected.

"What's wrong with Ms. Bender?" one of the executives asked, their gaze fixed on Penny.

Penny suddenly chuckled, bending down to pat Lydia's knee.

"The elevator shook just now, and I think the surveillance cameras flickered a few times, scaring Ms.

Bender. Are you alright now?"

Lydia wanted to complain, but those words sealed her mouth shut.

Penny was telling her that there were surveillance cameras in the elevator. If she made a fuss, Penny

wouldn't mind checking the footage, and that would be highly embarrassing for Lydia.

Fuming with anger, Lydia gritted her teeth as her chest heaved violently.

This despicable woman!

How could she always come out on top in their encounters? Damn it!

## **Chapter 165 He Truly Loves Angie**

Chapter 165 He Truly Loves Angie

Lydia couldn't accept it. She had a good relationship with Angie, and after being arranged by Angie to

work at the Fletcher Group, she fit right in due to Angie's connection with Orlando.

But ever since Penny appeared, Orlando had lectured her, and she hadn't dared to call him “brother-in-

law” to his face again. She had also been reprimanded once.

Orlando had never treated her like this before.

Lydia's eyes were red with tears. Even if she didn't explicitly complain, her pitiful appearance was

enough to make everyone suspect Penny.

She didn't respond to Penny's words, and the atmosphere became somewhat awkward.

The executives all looked at Penny. After all, she wasn't a famous person. Although she had some

reputation among interior designers, she didn't have any clients in this circle, so everyone considered

her a newcomer.

But Lydia was different. She was Angie's cousin, and Angie was going to be Mrs. Fletcher of the

Fletcher Group in the future.

If someone came forward to protect Lydia at this moment, it would indirectly please Mr. Fletcher.

So, someone with a clever mind spoke up with righteous indignation.

“Which floor are you from? We all saw it clearly when the doors opened just now. Ms. Bender was

kneeling in front of you, and you didn't even lend a hand. Moreover, appointments are required to go to

the top floor. Are you one of those women who constantly harass the receptionists in the lobby,

sneaking in just to see Mr. Fletcher?”

Indeed, there had been women who had secretly followed the employees on the top floor before, but

once they were exposed, the police took them away.

Everyone knew that Orlando himself disliked this kind of harassment.

Upon hearing the executives' questioning, Lydia's lips curved slightly, but her eyelids turned even

redder, making her look like someone deeply wronged.

Lydia wasn't bad-looking, so shedding a tear like this made men want to hold her in their arms and

comfort her.

However, due to her connection with Angie, the male employees on the top floor had never dared to

confess to her openly, but many secretly tried to win her favor.

Moreover, the group of executives in front of her loved to protect such young girls.

Compared to Lydia's fragility, Penny's calm expression wasn't very appealing to men.

Most men had a heroic streak and wanted to protect women under their wings.

Penny looked at Orlando, who didn't seem to intend to help her out of the situation. It looked like she

had to rely on herself.

"I made an appointment with Mr. Fletcher today," she said with a faint smile, taking out her business

card. "I'm Penny from Fayside Studio. I took over Mr. Fletcher's house renovation and came here today

to report on the recent progress. It was my fault that I didn't help Ms. Bender up in time."

As she spoke, she took out a tissue and placed it in front of Lydia. "Ms. Bender, don't cry anymore, or

everyone will think I bullied you," she said.

This move directly made Lydia unable to continue pretending.

Penny had spoken so sincerely and clearly, and now she had offered her a tissue.

If she didn't take it and then complain, Penny would undoubtedly bring up the surveillance footage.

If she did take it, it meant that what Penny said was true – she was just scared by the shaking elevator.

Then, the executive who had rushed to defend her would become a laughingstock.

Lydia was so angry that her face turned white. She wished she had known that Penny wasn't

intimidated by the executives and had this up her sleeve.

But now that she had no choice, she could only take the tissue and say, "Thank you, Miss Penny,"

through gritted teeth. She wished to tear Penny into pieces. Penny was nonchalant about Lydia's fury

but said with a smile, "You're welcome."

The executive who had defended Lydia was red-faced and embarrassed. He could only pretend that

nothing had happened and regret Lydia's ability to cry like a victim, which made him look bad.

Penny calmed down the storm and looked at Orlando. "Mr. Fletcher, aren't you coming in?"

Orlando didn't say anything but glanced at Lydia with indifference.

For some reason, Lydia sensed the tension and quickly lowered her head, her eyes reddened as she

walked out.

Orlando walked in, followed by other executives.

Penny stepped aside, wondering why he didn't take the private elevator. Little did she know that the

private elevator was under maintenance today, and Orlando had to attend a social event.

Inside this small elevator, the atmosphere was somewhat subtle.

Penny's gaze fell on the cuff of Orlando's sleeve. He had changed his cufflinks and now wore the

silver-blue ones Angie had just given him. Paired with his suit at the moment, the icy blue accent made

him appear even more distant and unapproachable.

Indeed, he loved Angie very much. Less than ten minutes after receiving the cufflinks from her, he

couldn't wait to put them on.

## **Chapter 166 Moving**

Chapter 166 Moving

Penny withdrew her gaze, feeling relatively unaffected. At most, like the others in Chatville, she couldn't

help but praise the perfect match in the circle.

However, she couldn't help but feel that Orlando didn't have the best judgment.

Although she didn't know Angie personally, everything about Angie exuded a strong sense of fake

innocence.

And yet, Orlando was willing to keep a woman who admired him by his side, all for the sake of

unrequited love.

The group remained silent until they reached the first floor.

Out of courtesy, Penny let them go ahead.

A few executives followed behind Orlando as they left.

Penny had initially planned to head directly to Fayside Studio, but she remembered her father's

instructions. Tonight, she must bring Orlando to the Stuart's mansion.

Given Orlando's disgust towards her, even if she were suddenly ill and on the verge of death, she

doubted he would step foot in Stuart's mansion to take a look unless Rex coerced him.

Penny was tired of playing this game of cat and mouse with Orlando, but she had signed the contract

and could only continue to play her role.

Moreover, the most important construction schedule had already been determined, and she would have

to spend more time at the material market, making her busier.

However, the thought of being exhausted every day and returning to Hills Villa, where she had to

cautiously avoid Orlando, filled her with weariness.

Letting out a sigh, Penny heard her phone ring-it was a call from the bank.

Surprisingly, it was the money from selling her house!

Her eyes lit up, finally finding joy amidst her recent misfortunes.

"Okay, I understand. I will immediately contact the real estate agency to settle the remaining payment."

She didn't have to repay the 1.5 million dollars owed to Orlando, saving her a significant amount. She

owed him too many favors, and the best she could do for him was to distance herself as his wife and

not disturb his reunion with the unrequited love.

Penny was sensible and didn't need Orlando's explicit request to do so.

She would complete the remaining paperwork with the real estate agency and head to that house.

The house's previous owner had already renovated it so that she could move in with her bags.

Penny was almost eager to go to Hills Villa and started moving her scattered luggage.

Anika saw her like this and felt a bit worried.

"Ms. Stuart, I don't think this is a good idea. You haven't lived in Hills Villa before, and now that Rex is

back, he will occasionally come by to check. He's not easily fooled like others. Last time, he even

personally went to Mr. Fletcher's room, and he wasn't very pleasant. If your belongings suddenly

disappear too, I'm afraid you won't be able to hide it."



Anika was looking out for her.

Penny immediately got a headache. Indeed, Rex had returned to Chatville, and what worried him the

most was her relationship with Orlando.

She sighed and decided to leave half of her luggage behind.

"I'll move some things over first and still come over regularly afterwards. But I don't want to

inconvenience Niko by having him continue to stay in the back room. Let me bring Niko over there

first."

Hills Villa was indeed nice, and Niko could freely frolic around without any problems.

If only Orlando weren't there.

The house Penny bought now was also quite good, but compared to Hills Villa, it fell short.

Anika realized that she couldn't persuade Penny anymore, so she stopped trying.

She understood that Ms. Stuart didn't have any feelings for Mr. Fletcher. If Mr. Fletcher found out that

the woman he never cared for seemed to not care for him, she didn't know how he would feel.

Penny took half of her luggage, which was actually just a small suitcase, and went to her new home.

After putting all her clothes into the wardrobe, she familiarized Niko with the new surroundings.

Niko was quite well-behaved. After barking a few times inside, he stood at the door and looked across.

"It's so cute."

A surprised woman's voice came from the doorway, followed by a playful voice from a man next to her.

"Colin, I want to have a puppy too. Is it okay?"

Penny was still sweeping the floor when she heard these words. She looked up and saw Colin standing

at the entrance with an unfamiliar woman in his arms.

This house was worth over 2 million dollars, and this residential area was always called the affluent.

But Penny never expected Colin's new girlfriend to live across from her.

The structure of the building was one staircase serving two households, and it had five floors. As luck

would have it, Penny had bought the fifth floor, which meant that this entire floor belonged to her and

Colin's new girlfriend.

## **Chapter 167 Trapped in this Dazzling World**

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It was too coincidental, truly too coincidental.

Coincidental to the point where Penny felt a twinge in her heart.

She knew that from now on, she would inevitably have to meet Colin again.

And Colin happened to be Orlando's cousin.

Colin walked in without hesitation.

"Penny, do you live here?"

Penny nodded and forced a smile on her face. "Is she Mr. Levine's girlfriend?"

Colin didn't shy away at all and wrapped his arm around the girl's waist, giving her a peck on the cheek.

"Yes, it seems like we're going to be neighbors."

Penny continued sweeping, wanting to say it wasn't necessary to be neighbors. She didn't want to

become neighbors with Colin's girlfriend. Besides, Colin's mother still had the misconception that she

was Colin's girlfriend.

Now that his official girlfriend was right in front of her, Penny worried that Ms. Fletcher might show up

one day and things would become chaotic.

But upon careful consideration, Ms. Fletcher probably wouldn't come here.

After all, Colin was willing to spend money on wooing women. Buying houses for them was expected. If

Ms. Fletcher wanted to investigate, she probably couldn't keep up.

Thinking of this, Penny felt relieved.

Colin noticed that she was cleaning alone and couldn't help but ask.

"Where's your husband? When I bought the house across from here, this house hadn't been sold yet.

You must have recently moved in with your husband, right?"

Penny stiffened, feeling a headache coming on.

Indeed, she had just moved in today, but the house opposite had been sold long ago, and Colin had

bought it first.

Even if Penny wanted to lie and say that she had bought it long ago, the lie would be too clumsy. And

how could she cover up the truth about her husband?

The girl standing next to Colin had her arm around him, and the moment Penny appeared, she was

filled with hostility. After all, this woman seemed very familiar with Colin.

Every woman who was familiar with Colin was his ex-girlfriend.

She immediately became extremely vigilant, but now that she heard Colin's words, her wariness

disappeared in an instant. So it turned out that Penny was Colin's true friend.

She breathed a sigh of relief and smiled, extending her hand.

"Hello, I'm Abbey Allen. Just call me Abbey. Have we met somewhere before?"

In fact, when Penny saw this face, she also felt a sense of familiarity.

It was not until Abbey's eyes lit up.

"Oh, you're the designer for Mr. Fletcher. I saw you when you first came to the Fletcher Group, but I

didn't receive you. It was my colleague who received you. You are gorgeous, and I remember your face."

It turned out she was a receptionist at the Fletcher Group.

Penny fell silent for a moment, feeling trapped in this dazzling world no matter what she did.

She didn't know whether to laugh or cry, but she still politely shook hands.

"Hello, I am indeed Mr. Fletcher's designer."

"So, you're already married. You really are beautiful."

Upon learning that Penny was not Colin's ex-girlfriend, the girl knew how to compliment.

And Colin, who was naturally friendly, asked, "Can we take a tour?"

"Yes, but I didn't design the decoration. It was decorated by the previous owner."

"But the decoration is still pretty good."

Because Penny had just moved in and was still cleaning, Colin didn't want to disturb her too much.

After taking a quick look around, he took Abbey back to their house.

Penny cleaned the house by herself and continued the cleaning until the afternoon. After pouring a

bowl of dog food for Niko, she received a message from Cason asking if she and Orlando were ready

to leave.

Penny raised her hand and rubbed her forehead.

Orlando, Orlando, Dad's eyes always only have Orlando in them.

Where could she contact Orlando now? It seemed that she was destined to stand up the Stuart family

tonight.

She stroked Niko's head but had no idea that Cason probably understood her rebelliousness at the

moment, so he called Rex instead.

Rex liked Penny and also wanted to give respect to the Stuart family. As soon as he found out that

dinner was already prepared on the other side, he personally called Orlando.

At that time, Orlando was still in a meeting. He had an important social engagement tonight related to

the acquisition case he had been preparing for.

## **Chapter 168 The Stuart Family's Excessive Pride**

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When Orlando received Rex's call, a hint of scornful contempt flickered in his eyes as he murmured, "I

understand. I'll go after I finish my social engagement."

Having helped the Stuart family through two rounds of financing and signed a contract with that

woman, Orlando thought it should have been a period of calm for the Stuart family.

Yet now they wanted him to personally visit, giving them respect. The Stuart family's pride was

excessive.

Orlando believed he had shown enough mercy towards the Stuart family. He had only left Chatville

instead of forcefully demanding a divorce agreement. He thought that woman had also been coerced

into the marriage, just like him. Both were unwilling participants.

But upon meeting her, he saw the blatant admiration in her eyes, devoid of any pretense, even filled

with ambition, which he found displeasing.

He even felt that she had instigated their marriage in front of Rex back then.

After all, Rex listened to her, and genuinely cared for her, and considering she had saved his life, as

long as she expressed the slightest desire to marry him, Rex would definitely help make it happen.

However, the means used for this match were too overbearing, directly forcing him to marry that woman.

Orlando felt rare annoyance. He had been sailing smoothly in the international finance circle and easily took over the Fletcher Group upon returning to the country. Yet he still had to maintain this abnormal relationship with that woman.

The Stuart family became too arrogant with Rex supporting them.

After agreeing to Rex, he hung up the phone.

The business partner sitting across from him continued to talk enthusiastically, occasionally observing his expression. Sensing his coldness, the partner cautiously spoke up.

"Mr. Fletcher, did I say something wrong?"

Orlando lightly laughed, his tone lazy and unhurried. "I've read the proposal, and it's perfect."

The partner breathed a sigh of relief and continued to bring up the next topic.

On the other hand, Penny also planned to stand up the Stuart family. Although she was genuinely

worried about her father's health, he needed to know that the Stuart family couldn't always rely on

Orlando.

Orlando had already intercepted business from the Stuart family before. If they truly cornered him, it

was even possible for him to bankrupt the Stuart family.

Now that he has helped them through two rounds of financing, the Stuart family has taken advantage of

it and should keep their distance from him and not bother him.

By not going to the appointment tonight, she could also give Cason a wake-up call. She thought that

when he brings up such requests again in the future, he would think twice.

But Penny never expected that Cason's call would reach Rex.

Making her image in Orlando's mind plummet once again.

Penny took out her computer and sorted out all the renovation materials she would need. Although

Orlando was wealthy, she still wanted to save money for him as a way of repaying the favor she owed.

All the materials had to be of the best quality, and she tried to get them directly from the factories at the

lowest price possible.

In the interior design industry, 90% of people profit from the price difference in materials. But in the

three years she had been working, Penny had always diligently collected only her design fees.

However, when dealing with previous clients, she hadn't insisted on getting materials directly from the

factories.

She finished organizing all the materials, and it was already seven o'clock in the evening.

Her phone was on silent mode, so she didn't receive several calls from Cason.

Penny reached out to her contacts and obtained the phone numbers of several source factories. When

she saw the last one, she paused slightly.

This particular source factory was actually in Prodale County.

Prodale was a relatively poor county, but there was a factory there that produced highly sought-after

goods, which basically supported the entire county's population.

That product was Lignum Vitae flooring, currently the most expensive wooden flooring on the market.

You could choose between imported and domestic options, but the growth conditions for this wood

were extremely harsh. It used to be imported from overseas, but Prodale, hidden deep in the

mountains, had this resource.

However, due to recent national policies, this type of wooden flooring has been marked for restricted sales.

The factory could only start logging when they reach the target number of these trees planted yearly.

Because it is so scarce, the wooden flooring here would be pre-ordered three years in advance.

But this time, Penny still wanted to go to Prodale to have a try.

However, there was still some time before the wood flooring could be delivered, so she needed to deal with the other materials first.

After contacting the responsible persons of those factories one by one, Penny was exhausted and collapsed on the table, reluctant to move.

She went through the recently organized materials and found that one of them was kept at Hills Villa.

Not wanting to bother Anika, she had no choice but to force herself to drive out.

Unexpectedly, she ran into Noah at the corner of the street.

Noah was hugging a woman and swaggering down the road.

Penny was infuriated, and her scalp tingled. She parked the car on the side and walked straight towards them.

"Noah!"

Noah froze, thinking he was hearing things, and almost attempted to run away. But realizing he had a woman by his side, he forcibly suppressed the urge to escape.

"Penny, what are you doing here?"

## **Chapter 169 Unexpected Encounter**

Chapter 169 Unexpected Encounter



Penny glanced at the woman next to Noah. She had flamboyant red hair, thick black eyeliner, and

heavy makeup that obscured her authentic appearance.

The woman took a disdainful look at Penny as she approached aggressively, then spat out a word with

contempt.

"Noah, who is she?"

"Uh, this is, this is my cousin."

"You're lying! Didn't you say you have no relatives in Chatville? Is this your girlfriend?"

"No, no!"

Noah anxiously tried to explain, but the woman raised her hand, slapped him across the face, and spat

on the ground.

"Get lost! Don't you ever come looking for me again, damn it!"

Noah wanted to chase after her, but Penny grabbed his sleeve.

"Noah! Don't forget that you're married. What do you think you're doing? At the very least, go home and

get a divorce before hanging around with other women outside!"

The woman hadn't gone far, and upon seeing Noah arguing with Penny, she became enraged,

considering the effort she had put into the past half month.

She turned back and forcefully shoved Penny onto the road.

"You slut! You dare steal my man! Didn't you bother to find out who I am?"

Penny didn't expect the woman to rush back and suddenly shove her onto the road.

Just as a car approached, it seemed like she was about to be hit.

Noah stood at the intersection, screaming in panic.

But at the critical moment, the car came to a stop just centimetres away from Penny's cheeks.

Shaken, Penny got up from the road and saw Noah grabbing the woman by the arm.

"Get lost! Get lost! We'll never see each other again!"

"Fine, Noah. If you dare speak to me like that, don't bother coming to work tomorrow!"

Noah's cheeks turned red, and he dared not look Penny in the eye.

Penny had snapped out of it by now, standing up from the ground. She felt a chill run down her spine

when she saw the familiar license plate.

The car window rolled down, revealing Orlando's face.

He must have just finished a social event, with two buttons of his shirt undone and one hand resting on

the car window, revealing his silver-blue cufflink.

He glanced at Penny, his tone carrying the coolness of the night.

"A new form of insurance fraud?"

Penny had no idea how to respond. On the one hand, she was angry at the woman's behavior. If she

reported it to the police, there might be a charge of attempted murder. On the other hand, she was

surprised to see Orlando here. How could she keep bumping into Orlando everywhere and always in

embarrassing situations?

"Mr. Fletcher."

She tidied up her slightly disheveled hair and nodded at him. "I'm sorry to have startled you."

Afterwards, she looked at Noah.

To some extent, Noah was afraid of this cousin of his. Although they had once lived under the same

roof, his cousin back then hardly spoke and was solely focused on her studies, lacking the aura she

now possessed.

"Noah, did you sell yourself for just a mouthful of food? Have you stooped to being with this kind of woman?"

Penny wasn't judging based on appearance alone, but when a woman behaved like this, her favorable impression would drop to negative levels.

If it weren't for Orlando's driver having good driving skills, she might have lost her life tonight.

Penny was already disappointed in this cousin, now feeling no hope left for him.

Especially since he didn't even go back to see their parents when something happened, he was

nothing short of an animal!

Yet the older generation always thought that having a son was useful, treating him like a precious little

bun. Even if he caused trouble, Philip and Haley would clean up after him.

The woman was still standing by Noah's side, and upon hearing these words, she rolled up her sleeves

and was about to charge forward.

"What the fuck do you mean? What do you mean by 'this kind of woman'? I earn my own money and

spend it cleanly. Don't try to fool me with your educated people's bullshit!"

Indeed, Penny's appearance gave off the impression of someone who had read many books, unlike

her.

Noah was getting frustrated and kept scolding her.

"Enough! Shut up! Didn't I tell you to get lost?"

"Fine, I'll get lost. Don't come crawling to me tomorrow with a pathetic face asking me to find you a job!"

That statement completely shattered the man's dignity and happened in front of his cousin. Noah

instinctively wanted to run away again, but Penny held him back.

"Can't you take some responsibility? Noah, you're already 28. How long do you plan on letting Haley worry about you?"

This wasn't the first time Penny had said such things to Noah, and he could feel his face flushing with embarrassment.

He took a deep breath, wanting to curse at Penny, but as he felt the strong aura emanating from

Orlando beside them, his courage was instantly deflated, leaving him speechless.

## **Chapter 170 Caught Spying**

Chapter 170 Caught Spying

"Can you just stop meddling in my affairs? They're my parents, not yours. Besides, don't you have your

own mess to deal with at home? Leave me alone, I'm leaving," Noah said.

"You can leave, but I've already called the police. If you go, that woman will go to jail," Penny replied

firmly.

Noah froze in his tracks, his face contorted with emotion.

Determined, Penny continued, "I will have someone take you back and immediately inform Philip and

Haley to come pick you up."

"You!" Noah's voice softened as he spoke.

"Just stay out of my business. I'd rather starve out here than go back to that home."

Orlando's car window was open. He had been present during Penny and Noah's previous argument.

However, Noah's accent was too strong, and Orlando could only make out bits and pieces of the

conversation. Plus, he wasn't really interested in Noah's family affairs.

But Orlando didn't instruct the driver to move. After all, the driver was still recovering from the shock.

Aware that Orlando was still there, Penny didn't want to continue embarrassing herself in front of him.

Instead, she made a phone call.

Soon enough, a car arrived at the scene. Two burly bodyguards stepped out of the car and lifted Noah

off the ground as if he were a chicken, binding his hands and feet.

Noah never expected Penny to make such a move. He wanted to struggle but was frightened into

silence when he saw the bulging muscles of the bodyguards.

He was a typical coward without any backbone.

Penny made another call, this time to Philip and Haley, informing them that she had found Noah and

that someone would immediately bring him back.

Philip and Haley couldn't believe it. They realized how much they owed Penny. Haley even mentioned

the young civil servant from before.

"Penny, I've done some inquiries. That young man is quite handsome and has no vices. When will you

come and meet him?"

Penny raised her hand to massage her temples and accidentally made eye contact with Orlando.

His profile was sharp and refined, with a faint glow from the car's roof casting in his eyes. Perhaps it

was the pleasant night breeze that made Orlando comfortable. Penny could hear her aunt's

questioning voice in her ear, but her mind was elsewhere. Once again, she noticed how perfectly

chiseled Orlando's features were, as if designed by a meticulous sculptor. It was the ideal template for

any artist.

Penny declined her aunt's inquiry and pretended to still be on the phone, placing the phone in front of her.

"Haley, I have to go now. Bye."

In truth, she had hung up a few seconds ago. She opened the camera app and quickly snapped a picture of Orlando's current pose.

In that instant when the flash went off and the distinct sound of the shutter clicked, Penny felt like the whole world became silent.

In that silence, she wished she could open up a crack in the ground and disappear.

Orlando raised an eyebrow and looked at her.

He lightly tapped his fingertips on the window frame, a graceful fluidity in the tense wrist bones.

He didn't say anything, and a momentary pause of cool detachment was broken by a gentle smile in his eyes.

Penny's cheeks burned, and she awkwardly changed the subject.

"Mr. Fletcher, I won't disturb you any longer. I'm really sorry about earlier. Let me treat you to dinner another day."

After speaking, she practically fled into her own car, slammed on the accelerator, and wished she could escape from this planet.

Why did she always encounter these incredibly embarrassing situations whenever she saw Orlando?

She drove to her newly purchased house in a neighborhood called Rose Residence. It gained a reputation as a place where second-generation wealthy individuals kept their mistresses due to its romantically inclined name.

As soon as Penny stepped out of the elevator, she heard the sound of kissing and entangled lips. Colin

and his new girlfriend were standing by the door, locked in a passionate embrace.

Penny suspected that she had forgotten to check her horoscope before leaving today. Returning back

into the elevator wouldn't be appropriate, but ignoring their presence while entering her own home was

equally awkward.

Luckily, Colin had thick skin and sensed someone's arrival, hastily releasing Abbey.

"Sweetheart, I should go now. See you tomorrow."

Abbey also looked reluctant to part, her face flushed as she bid farewell.

After Colin left, Abbey greeted Penny and rubbed her reddened cheeks.

"Penny, do you have some free time tonight? I'm feeling down, and I thought we could chat?"

Penny wasn't particularly skilled at socializing, especially with someone like Abbey, whom she didn't

know well.

Moreover, she had just experienced that awkward scene and now wanted to calm down and think

about how to face Orlando next time.

She was about to refuse when Abbey's following words left her speechless.

"Colin said you're his friend, talented and capable. He said I should learn from you."

With several compliments stacked together, Penny found herself unable to utter the words of refusal.