

Chapter 17 Cecilia Doesn't Know Anything!

By the time Rena went back inside the restaurant, it was time for her to go onstage again.

Tyrone didn't want to bother her while she was working, so he waited until she was done and then found a place for them to talk.

Danna was a sweet girl, and Rena eventually agreed to teach her.

Tyrone's offer was quite high, and he even paid Rena two months' worth of tuition fees in advance.

Rena knew that Tyrone was just trying to help her out. If her family wasn't in so much trouble, she might've refused his offer, but now she couldn't afford to let her pride get in the way.

When Rena made it home, she found the apartment empty.

She called Eloise to ask where she was, and Eloise said she was just running some errands and that she'd be back soon.

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Around half an hour later, Rena heard the door unlocking. Eloise had come back, but her arm was red and swollen.

"What happened to your arm?" Concerned, Rena helped Eloise sit down.

Eloise waved her hand dismissively. "Oh, I'm just so old and useless. I tried to work for a while, but my arm gave out."

Hearing this, Rena froze.

She immediately checked Eloise's palms.

Sure enough, there were several blisters on Eloise's originally supple palms.

At a loss for words, Rena stared at her blistered palms blankly.

After a long time, tears started to roll down her cheeks. She wiped them hurriedly, but no matter how hard she tried, she couldn't hold back her tears. She applied medicine on Eloise's blistered palms and then went back to her room to get ten thousand dollars.

Without hesitation, she handed the cash to Eloise and asked her not to work anymore.

That night, Rena cried herself to sleep. 3

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When she got up the following morning, there were dark circles under her eyes. No amount of concealer could cover how tired she looked.

Over breakfast, Eloise told her, "If you're burnt out, just quit one of your jobs. I can always sell that small apartment in the suburb and we'll have some extra cash."

Rena shook her head firmly. "Don't worry. I can take good care of myself."

Eloise sighed and didn't say anything more.

After eating, Rena grabbed her bag and went to work in the music studio.

Unexpectedly, as soon as she arrived at the studio, a colleague whispered to her, "Rena, a Miss Fowler has been waiting for you! If you don't want to see her, we can tell her that you're on leave."

Rena paused. Before she could say anything, she caught a glimpse of Cecilia waiting in the lounge.

Rena didn't hate her, but she didn't want to have anything to do with her either. So she told her colleague to tell Cecilia that she was on leave today.

Unfortunately, it was too late. Cecilia had seen her.

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Cecilia came over and said with a sad smile, "Rena, I just wanted to know why you don't want to perform at my birthday party. Do you... Do you dislike me?"

As soon as she asked this, the whole studio seemed to fall deathly silent.

Rena's colleagues all knew that she used to date Harold.

But here Harold's fiancée was, trying to get Rena to like her. It was too cruel to watch!

Rena's colleagues all looked at her sympathetically, which only made Rena feel even more embarrassed.

She said to Cecilia in a low voice, "I'm sorry. It's not like that at all. I just happened to have a prior commitment on your birthday. Why not ask someone else to perform at your party?"

Cecilia bit her lip stubbornly. She refused to give up on Rena. 1

So she went to a nearby cafe and waited for Rena's lunch break. Sure enough, when Rena was leaving to grab some lunch, Cecilia rushed out to stop Rena.

"Rena, let's have coffee!" Cecilia said enthusiastically.

Rena was usually good-tempered, but she really couldn't agree to perform at Cecilia's birthday party. Thus, she politely declined and went straight to a small restaurant for lunch.

In her designer clothes and high-heels, Cecilia followed Rena into the restaurant. "If you can't attend my birthday party, then can you give me some advice on a wedding dress? Tyrone said you had a good taste. Harold's arriving soon to have lunch with me. Rena, maybe you can give us some advice!"

All the color drained from Rena's face. 4

She was betrayed by Harold, her father was going to jail, and Harold was forcing her to become his mistress. 1

But Cecilia—this naive fool—knew nothing! 12