

Chapter 21

Lily sat down and looked up at Olivia. "Liv, if you must choose between MN Inc. and me, which one would you..."

"I'll choose you!" Olivia said without hesitation, interrupting Lily even before she could finish her words.

Her answer stunned Lily for a moment before a smile appeared on her face.

It would be great if Olivia could continue working at MN Inc. as the company offered a decent salary. Olivia was a hot-tempered person, and she disliked any complex social interactions, so working in this lab suited her the best as she had a profound knowledge of perfumery.

Lily could not stay in MN Inc., but it would affect Olivia regardless of Lily's choice. Lily felt awful because of it. However, Lily did not expect Olivia to choose her with so much certainty.

"Maybe I did gain something from working at MN Inc.," Lily thought.

Smiling, the two looked at each other. The two needed no words to express their feelings for one another.

"Oh right. Are you really going to work at Rebirth?" Since the topic was there, Olivia asked bluntly, "Then... Can I come with you too?" Still, Olivia was cautious, afraid she might bring more trouble to Lily.

When a person job-hopped, they would either job-hop alone or with an entire team of their own. It was rare for a job hopper to bring only one person.

Plus, Olivia was still new in the perfumery industry and was only a research assistant who was not well-known yet. Hence, Olivia was unsure if Rebirth would want to take her in.

"About that..." Lily pondered as she had not brought the matter up to the team from Rebirth yet.

Alexander was the one who arranged Lily's position in Rebirth. If she mentioned bringing Olivia over to Rebirth to Alexander, then...

"It's fine if I can't go with you! With my qualification and ability, I'll be able to find another job! It won't be that difficult for me," Olivia said casually upon noticing Lily's hesitation. "N-No, it's not that you can't come with me. I'll talk to the people from Rebirth first. Don't worry about it. I'll bring you everywhere if you want to come with me." Olivia was loyal and an excellent assistant to Lily, so Lily had no reason not to bring her along.

"When will you start working there?" "I'll need to discuss it with them first. Plus, there are still some things I need to settle here first."

"Is it about the documents? Don't worry. I have backups of them on my laptop!" Olivia said. After a moment, she became angry because of this. "But they took the hard copies of our documents away!"

"It doesn't matter," Lily said and waved her hand. "Nathaniel will hold a press conference to make me admit that I lied during the competition."

"W-What?!" Bewildered, Olivia almost jumped from her seat, "How could he be so shameless?"

"We put so much effort and time into formulating these fragrances and perfumes. You invested all your energy and time into this. Not only did Nathaniel take all the credit, but he wants to slander you now? Does he even have a conscience?" Others might not know the truth, but Olivia did.

Lily and Olivia were the ones who did the research and experiments one after another, over and over again, just to get the results they wanted. Sometimes, they even missed their meals just to watch over the experiments.

There were times when they could only take a nap on a bench in the lab because they needed to observe the experiments, afraid it might go wrong and give them the wrong data.

The duo went through much together, and Olivia was furious when such a thing happened to Lily.

Chapter 22

"What would Nathaniel be most afraid of when he wants me to admit that I lied during the competition before the public?"

Upon seeing Olivia's puzzled gaze, Lily continued, "It's the witnesses and evidence that will be against him. Sure, he took the evidence away, but the witness..."

"Am I the witness?" Olivia pointed at herself. Realization soon hit her as she exclaimed, "I can be the witness!"

She continued, arms akimbo, "We can use this chance to expose his true colors and show everyone just what kind of a person he truly is!"

Lily smiled, shook her head lightly, and said, "No, you won't need to be a witness. I only need you to take a vacation over the next two days." "Take a vacation?"

"Yes, that's right! Nathaniel doesn't need you to be his witness. All he wants is to have nobody testify for me. It will benefit him if you leave now."

At this crucial moment, Olivia knew that Nathaniel, who cared even about the minor things, would not let her go if she were to resign now. Slacking at work seemed to be a good choice for her in this situation.

However, Olivia was worried. "Lily, I should be by your side, especially now. Running away would make me look like a selfish person. Y-You know, like a soldier who ran away during a war because they didn't want to die."

"Silly girl. We're not at war here. How would you resemble a soldier who ran away?" Lily chuckled. "Also, I know what I'm doing. You wanted to leave with me, didn't you? Use this time to take a break because you will be busy in the future."

Although Olivia still had doubts, she nodded upon seeing the determination in Lily's eyes. After all, the duo had worked together for many years. Olivia trusted Lily's decision. "Okay, I'll do as you say."

After leaving the lab, Lily planned to go to Rebirth. While waiting for a cab on the side of the road, a black Maybach stopped in front of her. The car's window rolled down and revealed a handsome face. It was Alexander, and Lily was surprised to see him. "Get in," Alexander said.

Pursing her lips, Lily opened the car door and got in the car.

"Why are you here?" Lily asked, thinking, 'How did he know where I was?'

"What? Am I not welcomed here?" The car had already started to move, while Alexander turned to look at Lily.

"Of course not!" Lily said and held his arm naturally. "I just didn't expect to see you here."

"Does this count as a surprise?"

That made Lily chuckle. "Of course it does. Where are we going now, though? I was planning to go to Rebirth since I'm not entirely done with my work application yet."

Lily only had a quick chat with the person in charge of Rebirth last night. She even had to search for the company's address online. Before this, Lily knew little about Rebirth. She thought she needed to talk about this with Alexander.

"We're not going there today. What about tomorrow?" Alexander said faintly. "Why not?" As Lily asked, a thought formed in her head. 'It is still early now. Does Alex need to do something else?' Alexander said nothing, but he just pointed to the back.

Lily looked at where Alexander pointed and noticed many other cars behind them but thought nothing of it. After a moment, Lily was sure those cars were tailing them. 'Who are they? Are those Nathaniel's men?'

"Then what should we..." Lily wanted to ask Alexander what they should do, but at this time, Alexander suddenly circled his arm around her shoulder as the car sped up simultaneously.

Chapter 23

Alexander's car rocketed down the road. Soon they lost the cars behind them.

"Nate must've sent people to follow me. It's probably to see if I'm still in contact with Rebirth." Lily turned her head back toward Alexander as she spoke.

"Huh?" Alexander raised his eyebrows. "Did you promise him you wouldn't return to Rebirth?"

"I didn't promise him anything, but he probably felt that he had convinced me to." Lily did not promise Nathaniel anything, but Nathaniel still thought his lame lies had successfully fooled her again. He was the same person as usual and thought he was familiar with Lily because the old Lily would give him all her trust.

However, Lily witnessed Nathaniel's betrayal and affair with her own eyes. She watched his and Melanie's illicit relationship and lost all of Lily's trust. How could she ever believe any of Nathaniel's words again?

"So, what's your plan now?"

Without interfering with her decision, Alexander was very interested, and he was even a little curious about what she would do to make them pay. Frankly, that Hall sc*mbag had hurt Lily so badly, so Alexander planned to seek justice for her, but now it seemed his wife did not entirely need his protection as she had her ways.

Lily looked toward the front calmly. "He wants to hold a press conference and make me take the fall for what happened during the competition."

"Oh?" Alexander's voice was calm, and his eyes were cold. "What time is the press conference?"

"He didn't say, but I guess it's tomorrow or tonight."

"Why?"

"Because he is desperate." Lily turned her head and looked at Alexander. "Last night's event not only thoroughly discredited him but also ruined MN Inc.'s reputation. He doesn't have the patience to wait longer. What's more, the organizing committee is also investigating this case. We need to solve this matter as quickly as possible."

"Are you going to oblige Nathaniel's wishes?" Although he asked, Alexander did not think Lily would be so obedient to Nathaniel.

"Unless I'm out of my mind," Lily said, "What was once mine will be mine again."

In Alexander's eyes, Lily's little face was as tranquil as he remembered. She was beautiful, unlike the others who only caught people's attention at first glance. Still, looking at her only made her more irresistible, making Alexander want to pamper and care for her. Alexander tucked Lily's hair behind her ear and uttered affectionately, "Turn to me whenever you need me."

These simple words made Lily's heart warm. Over the past few years of dating Nathaniel, she used to do everything independently. Nathaniel was busy starting a business and socializing, never having time to eat dinner, watch movies, or even listen to Lily talk

Lily would only feel his warmth for a few days when they released new products. She would feel **inferior to** MN Inc.'s employees any other time. If Lily complained a little, he would want her to be generous and reasonable, not irritable. Still, she got used to it as time went by.

Hearing Alexander's words at this moment, she teared up a little. She leaned on his shoulder instinctively, whispering, "I will." As Alexander did not expect she would take the initiative to lean on him, he was slightly startled. Lily whispered in his ears, and the corners of his mouth upturned instantly. 1 "Where are we going now?" Lily asked softly while feeling surprisingly calm when laying in Alexander's arms.

"Going to dinner," he said. "You haven't eaten yet, right?" "How did you know?" Lily was shocked as if Alexander had installed a monitor on her.

Chapter 24

Alexander laughed as if he guessed what Lily was thinking. "I'm not a pervert who monitors people. I can see and hear with my eyes and ears."

Suddenly, he poked Lily's stomach, and she dodged as it tickled. That was when Lily realized her stomach growled with hunger.

Alexander took her to the Sky Garden Restaurant located halfway along the hill. This restaurant was famous in town, not only for its unique design but also for its magnificent view.

In a mainstream society where Asian cuisine symbolized high-class identity, Sky Garden also served Western Cuisine, which their senior chefs specialized in. The restaurant had a dish from every culture for everyone.

Of course, it was pricey, and some could not afford to enjoy their delicacies. Still, most who wanted to eat at Sky Garden would need to make a reservation, even if certain people had reserved seats like VIP guests.

Lily looked at a woman sitting across from her, taking the menu gracefully and handing it to her man. The waiters served them as soon as their car drove in. It looked like they had reserved their places beforehand.

"You can order first," Alexander said.

"What kind of cuisine would the lady prefer? We have specialized menus for you to choose from." The waiter served them attentively.

After some thought, Lily responded, "How about American cuisine?"

Then she raised her eyes to look at Alexander. "Are you used to eating this kind of cuisine?"

"I am fine with anything," He said casually.

It was not that she was a picky eater, but the prices Lily saw on her menu were staggering. She knew it was pricey but did not expect it to be that expensive. Although she did not have to pay for it, the prices stung her heart.

"What's the matter?" Alexander cast his questioning eyes over when Lily did not move for some time.

"I-It's nothing. I'm just a little spoiled for choice," Lily said half-jokingly, but it was apparent she had trouble choosing what she wanted to eat.

After taking a deep look at her, Alexander looked at the waiter. "Please serve some of your Western signature dishes for now. She'll look at the rest later." "Of course!" The waiter quickly placed their order, and Lily accepted the offer willingly. Since Alexander had ordered for her, she did not have to worry about it. Lily closed the menu and put it aside to avoid looking at its terrifying numbers. She was not poor. It was just that she seldom lived a luxurious life. Nathaniel often instilled a sense of frugality during their entrepreneurial period, so Lily got used to it over time. Habits were such a scary thing.

The restaurant was quick to serve its dishes. It had only been a while, but Lily's phone rang as soon as she took her first bite. Olivia's name flashed on the screen, so Lily glanced at Alexander apologetically, picked up the phone, and answered it.

"Lily, I've applied for leave," Olivia said directly.

"Did he approve it?" Lily guessed it as she noticed Olivia's pleasant voice over the phone.

"He approved it immediately! Lily, you guessed right. He probably wants me to stay far away for now. He gave me extra days off when I told him it was for my vacation. You knew he'd been waiting for this moment!" "I know." Olivia's voice was so loud that Alexander probably could hear her. Lily cleared her throat embarrassedly. "Then go and have fun!"

"Come on, Lily, how can I go on vacation at a critical moment like this? Don't you need me to stay back to help you? I can be your witness if Nathaniel wants to blame everything on you!"

Chapter 25

"It's fine, Liv. Listen to me. You've been busy because of work for far too long. You should take a break since you'll get busy again in a few days.

By then, you won't be able to rest even if you wanted to," Lily said half-jokingly.

Since Lily insisted, Olivia stopped persuading her.

"Okay then. Oh right, you know I have two phones. I turned off the one for work. If you need me, call my personal phone number."

"Yeah. Have fun!" After hanging up, Lily noticed Alexander gave her a deep look.

She looked down at her appearance, but nothing seemed to be out of place.

"What's wrong?" + "Are you asking her to leave because you don't want her to get involved?" Alexander hit the nail on the head, stunning Lily before she let out a smile. "Not entirely.

Liv was my assistant while I worked in MN Inc., so she's familiar with all my products and research outcomes.

This time, Nathaniel is determined to make me take the blame for everything, so Liv would be the first person he would want to bring up the past.

If so, she will have no choice but to tell them everything, regardless of whether or not she wants to, because she is still MN Inc.'s employee.

It would be better for her not to be around." While talking, Lily did not neglect her food.

Some things were indeed expensive for a reason.

Her meal possessed an exquisite and delicious appearance with a first-class taste.

It had been a long time since she had time to sit down and enjoy her meal.

Hence, she paid no attention to her image or that Alexander was sitting right before

She simply ate as she usually would when she was alone.

With a faint smile on his lips, Alexander just stared at Lily as she ate.

It was as if he could be full by just watching her eat. He was a little apprehensive about Lily's plans.

"You seem pretty confident." Initially, Alexander

Still, after listening to what she said, he realized she was not acting impulsively.

Instead, she had thought over her entire plan carefully and thoroughly. Her food as she looked up at Alexander.

Lily stopped digging her spoon into

"There's one more thing I hope you can agree to." "What is it?" Alexander seemed to be full already.

He placed his utensils down, gently wiping the corners of his lips with a napkin as he waited for Lily to continue. "I-I want to bring Liv with me to Rebirth." After a short pause, Lily continued, "I'm doing it for myself, but Liv is also a competent person.

Plus, I'm used to working with her.

I can promise you we will bring great results to the company.

If not, I will..." Lily even raised a hand as if she was making an oath.

"What will you do?" Alexander asked, interrupting her words.

"Give us half a year.

Within that time, I can create a hot-selling perfume that will benefit the company significantly." Lily promised.

Alexander chuckled.

"I remember you only took three months to develop the formula for First Love, so why do you need half a year at my company?" down slowly, hesitating for a moment before she said, "Actually..." "Yeah?" "First Love is flawed." "Oh?" "I'm sure you know a great perfume takes time to create, from its inspiration and planning process to repeated experiments and try-outs.

Lily put her hand

We had to rush everything to create a perfume in three months.

However, we had no choice back then." Lily shrugged and continued, "Nathaniel wanted us to rush our work because he needed a new product to participate in the competition, so..." The creation of First Love was a rushed process. "That was why its base note changed completely with just a slight modification to its ingredients," Lily said in a playful tone.

Her thumb and index finger were placed closely together to indicate how little of the new ingredient she used. Lily's liveliness and each of her expressions into his mind.

Alexander engraved

His eyes darkened, and he suddenly moved closer to her.

Before she could react, he had wiped the corners of her lips with a napkin.

"There was a tiny bit of oil stain on your lips." Alexander looked indifferent, as if his actions were a regular thing.

However, his words made Lily blush instantly. Alexander was so serious and focused while gently wiping the corners of her lips.

Chapter 26

"I-I'm full." Lily lowered her head while her cheeks flushed red. "You're probably tired, so let's go home and rest first.

We'll talk about the rest tomorrow." As if knowing what was bothering Lily, Alexander said, "I'll let Edward know about your request.

Don't worry about it." His words managed to relieve Lily of her worries.

She thought it was great to have someone else understand her and make arrangements to get things done before she even asked.

When the couple got into the car, Alexander asked Lily, "Are you renting the place you're staying at now?" "Yeah." "Cancel your contract and move in with me," Alexander said and held Lily's hand.

Alexander's actions made Lily's heart skip a beat as she tightened her grip on his hand and lowered her head, appearing to be in her thoughts.

Alexander did not rush her either.

He just looked ahead with her hand in his, waiting patiently for her answer.

The arrival of such a day was already within Lily's expectations, but she just did not think it would come so soon.

Since they were married now and had even slept with each other, they were considered a proper married couple.

It made sense for them to move in together.

Lily nodded.

"Okay." "Let's move your things over now, shall we?" Alexander was indeed a man of action.

The car soon arrived at Lily's neighborhood as she went upstairs to pack the essentials alone, mostly her clothes.

However, she no longer wanted her bedsheets, blankets, and other miscellaneous items.

Then she placed all her essential documents into a file and called her landlord to cancel her rental contract.

Before she left, she rechecked the room to ensure she did not leave anything behind.

It was only now that she realized she had been alone for a long time.

She thought Nathaniel and herself were starting a business together where they could work toward a common goal.

However, it turned out it was only her dream, not Nathaniel's.

Lily stood at the door and took a long look as a sign of farewell to her past.

'Goodbye, my past.' Alexander was surprised when he saw that Lily only had one bag.

"That's it?" "I only packed the important items.

The other things don't matter." It was fortunate that Nathaniel was not around, as Lily was not in the mood to explain things to him.

It was rare for Nathaniel to come over anyway.

On the way home, neither Lily nor Alexander spoke.

Alexander just held her hand in his as his thumb gently rubbed the back of her hand.

The driver drove the car to Imperial Hills, the most expensive neighborhood in the city.

It was a well-known community filled with mansions for the wealthy.

Only the finest architects and interior designers worked on each mansion.

The mansions even came with their own gardens.

Staying in this neighborhood symbolized a person's wealth and status, so the fact that Alexander resided here did not surprise Lily at all.

However, she did not expect that there would be no maids in his vast mansion.

She also found it convenient after learning that his mansion was fully automated.

"Are you the only one living here?" Lily asked in surprise when she noticed no one else in his mansion.

"It'll be the two of us from today onward," Alexander said, placing the mansion's key in Lily's palm.

Chapter 27

"I prefer tranquility, but someone will come to clean up the house every two days or so." Alexander loosened his tie.

"I'm going to take a shower while you rest first.

There is an empty walk-in closet where you can store your belongings," after speaking, Alexander entered the room.

Lily was relieved when she heard the sound of the shower.

After all, she needed some time to adapt to the unfamiliar environment.

1 There were about three floors to the mansion, and the top floor would be the loft.

It was not very tall, but the area was relatively expansive.

The mansion had cold tones with clean lines on the walls, resembling Alexander, who was cold yet capable.

The walk-in closet size caused Lily to stagger as she carried her bag inside.

The closet was large enough to be a bedroom.

There were men's clothes in two cabinets while the rest were empty.

Lily did not bring much stuff, so she hung her clothes one by one before pulling out a small file containing her important documents.

Inside the file were her ID card, academic certificate, and other essential documents.

However, she realized the marriage certificate she had the day before was not inside.

Alexander had taken both certificates, and she did not know where he had put them, so she had to ask for them later.

When the phone rang in her pocket, she pulled it out to find it was a call from Nathaniel.

She had received more phone calls in the last two days than in the previous two months.

"Hello?" Lily lazily said as she answered the call.

"Lily, where have you been?!" Nathaniel thundered with a skeptical tone.

Did he mistake her for the previous Lily who listened to him? "Since when have you been so concerned with my whereabouts, Mr.

Hall?" Lily chuckled as she slid the file containing her documents into a drawer.

Her tone irritated Nathaniel.

"Lily, can't you speak more politely?" "I believe I've been speaking politely.

How much more polite could I be?" Lily exited the walk in closet and saw her husband, who had just gotten out of the shower.

Alexander's hair was still dripping wet, and he was wearing only a large white bath towel around his waist.

His upper body lines were nearly flawless.

He glanced at Lily and noticed she was on the phone, approaching her without saying a word.

As Alexander got closer to Lily, her breath slowed to the point where she forgot to breathe.

Nathaniel was still chattering on the phone, "What do you mean by that? Did the company speak to you about anything? Did you go and meet with the people from Rebirth again? Do you still believe their nonsense? Don't be stupid, Lily.

They tried to sow discord among us! We should be familiar with each other after all these years, especially after I've treated you well.

Don't be mad because there is nothing between Mel and me.

Stop thinking nonsense and come to MN Inc." Lily heard a faint gasp on the other side of the call, even though Nathaniel had quickly spoken over it.

Lily knew Melanie was by his side and got pissed off by what Nathaniel said.

'He's so capable that he can call me while flirting with Mel?' Lily felt disgusted at that thought but had no intentions or time to indulge in Nathaniel's nonsense at the moment because the man before her had utterly captivated her.

Alexander stood so close that Lily could count the water droplets on his chest.

Chapter 28

Lily almost stretched her finger to touch Alexander's tanned skin and well-built muscles. She gulped subconsciously. "Lily? Lily?!" Nathaniel suspected Lily had hung up the phone when he did not get a response, so he kept calling her name.

Lily widened her eyes as she watched Alexander's tall figure lean toward her.

His handsome face was getting closer and closer.

She held her breath, and then...

When their lips got close, Alexander turned sideways and gently kissed Lily on her cheek near her ear.

Then he straightened his back and went straight into the walk-in closet.

Thud! The phone slipped from Lily's hand and rolled on the carpet.

Fortunately, the phone fell onto the carpet.

Otherwise, it would have shattered.

Nathaniel was still on the other end of the call waiting for Lily's response, when the loud thud hurt his eardrums.

He hurriedly moved his ear away from the phone and exclaimed, "Lily! What the hell are you doing?! Are you even listening to me?" Lily squatted to pick up her phone and calmly wiped it.

"Mr. Hall, what's the matter? You can tell me," she said after confirming she did not damage her phone.

"Why, you...!" Nathaniel suppressed his anger and told himself to tolerate her until they settled their matters during the press conference.

"The press conference I mentioned earlier is scheduled for tonight.

Come to MN Inc.

later, and we'll attend the conference together.

We'll rehearse on the road.

We should try to suppress the incident as soon as possible and minimize the negative impacts on the company." Lily sneered, "What about the negative impact on me?" Nathaniel was silent for a while.

Then he softened his voice and said slowly, "Lily, I'm sure you're aware of how much this incident has affected MN Inc.

The company is our life's work, and you have sacrificed much for it too.

I don't think you would want anything to happen to it, do you? Listen, I know I might make you feel aggrieved this time, but the company will become more popular and influential once we resolve this matter.

We'll get married after that, okay?" He promised to marry her again, using his eloquence to coax her repeatedly, but Lily no longer gave a d*mn.

"All right, then." Lily paused and pretended Nathaniel had persuaded her.

"You're right. I've put much effort into MN Inc. and don't want anything bad to happen to it." 'If I could put that much effort into a company, I can also withdraw from it. If I built it, I could destroy it as I please,' Lily thought.

Nathaniel was relieved when he heard Lily's words, "Then hurry to the company.

I'll be waiting for you!" When Lily hung up the phone, she stood up and realized her husband had already put on his robe, as if he was going to bed.

"I'll be out later since the press conference is tonight," Lily said bluntly.

She knew it was better to be honest and tell her husband about it because he would eventually find out anyway.

"What's the hurry? It's still early, so let's rest for a while," Alexander slowly approached Lily as he continued, "I've adjusted the water temperature and prepared the stuff you need.

Chapter 29

Rumors had it Alexander was cold blooded, ruthless, and cruel. No one would have expected him to be gentle and considerate to another person.

The water's temperature was just right, so Lily comfortably took a hot bath and changed into new clothes and undergarments.

The discomfort she felt from her menstrual pain reduced considerably, and it made her feel relieved.

Alexander was right when he said Lily did not need to rush and should take a good rest first.

Lily took a nap while Alexander hugged her and fell asleep, giving her a great sense of security.

The two simply cuddled without doing anything else, and Lily felt a newfound peacefulness.

She napped for over an hour and realized her phone had countless missed calls when she woke up.

They were from Nathaniel, who seemed distressed, while Lily felt the exact opposite.

She slowly changed into a white dress.

The dress was simple, without any unique cuttings or designs, but it fitted Lily's figure well, giving her an elegant look. Before Lily left, Alexander circled his arms around her waist, his head buried in her neck as he nibbled on her skin.

"I don't want to let go of you." "I'm yours regardless of where I am." Lily's words made Alexander hold her tighter as he kissed her passionately.

After giving her another two pecks on her lips, he let her go.

"I'll get Edward to wait for you.

Come back once the press conference is over.

"Okay." Lily nodded before she turned around to leave.

Lily arrived at the venue when the impatient Nathaniel ran toward her and scolded, "Where the hell were you?! I called you so many times! Why didn't you answer any of my calls? Are you in contact with the people from Rebirth again? Lily, didn't I make it clear enough to you? Do you still not know how critical this press conference is?! How dare you!" Lily glanced at Nathaniel coldly, making him choke on his words and stop talking.

"Let's go in now." They did not enter the venue right away.

Instead, Nathaniel brought Lily to the walkway and said quickly, "I've repeatedly reminded you of what to say, so I trust you've got this.

After today, MN Inc.

will do even better than before.

Lily, listen to me.

I know that you've always been sensible.

Everything depends on you today!" Lily listened to Nathaniel speak obediently with a faint smile on her face the whole time.

However, her silence made Nathaniel feel slightly anxious.

He wanted to say more but felt he had told her everything he needed her to know.

Finally, he placed his hands on her shoulders and leaned in closer to her as he whispered, in a voice so soft that it was only audible for the two of them, "I trust you, but you better not try anything funny.

Don't blame me for the consequences you'll suffer if you don't do as I say." Then Nathaniel let her go and looked at her lovingly.

Anyone else would have thought he said something sweet to her.

Lily's smile was gone by now while her gaze was cold.

She turned around and headed to the venue.

As soon as she entered the building, flashing lights blinded her, causing her to squint her eyes.

The reporters raised their cameras one after another to take pictures of her.

She stopped and collected herself before quickly walking to the stage.

A row of tables was on the stage as several higher-ups from MN Inc.

took their seats on both ends, reserving the three center seats for Nathaniel, Lily, and Melanie.

Chapter 30

Lily walked over and sat down gracefully. Melanie had arrived at the venue earlier. Once Lily took her seat, Melanie glanced over at Nathaniel, who noticed that and gave Melanie an "Okay" gesture.

Seeing that, Melanie felt slightly more at ease.

The press conference soon commenced, and Nathaniel went straight to the point.

"I'm sure all of you heard about the incident during the perfumery competition last night.

There were some misunderstandings.

Hence, we arranged this press conference to clarify the misunderstandings to those concerned with the media's help." Nathaniel paused before he continued, "The product 'First Love,' which was one of MN Inc.'s entries to the competition, was well-received by everyone.

However, two companies submitted the same work, which raised concerns about plagiarism and intellectual property theft.

The people involved in this incident are already here, so I won't say more.

Now, I'll pass the floor to the two perfumers to explain it to all of you, alright?" Then Nathaniel passed the microphone to Melanie.

Melanie wore a black Bardot dress, making her look imposing.

The interesting thing was that her black dress formed a sharp contrast with Lily's white dress.

Accustomed to such situations, Melanie brightly smiled as she said, "Hello, everyone.

I'm Melanie Thayer, MN Inc.'s chief perfumer." The way Melanie introduced herself as MN Inc.'s chief perfumer made Lily lower her gaze and smirk.

"As Mr.

Hall briefly explained the incident earlier, I won't be repeating it.

I just want to say that I've known hard work is more important than talent ever since I started my career in this industry.

I believe that a great perfume results from a perfumer's dedication to the lifelong learning of fragrances through continuous research and experiments.

We must put our minds to doing the right thing.

Playing tricks may help a person gain short-term benefits, but it will never help them in the long run.

Am I right, Lily?" Melanie concluded her part by throwing a question to Lily casually.

Sure enough, everyone's attention averted to Lily.

They were all ears, waiting to hear what Lily had to say.

Although Melanie did not denounce Lily, everyone understood the meaning behind her words.

Melanie made it clear she was the victim, while Lily was the thief who plagiarized and stole the work of others.

The microphone was in front of Lily, but she was not in a hurry to speak.

She looked around the venue, her gaze sweeping almost the entire place.

Just when Nathaniel started to get anxious and wanted to remind Lily to speak, he finally heard Lily say, "I agree with what Ms.

Thayer said.

It's indeed most important for us to put our minds to doing the right thing.

Besides, Ms.

Thayer was right about one's hard work being more important than one's talent." The reporters clicked their cameras wildly, but Lily did not dodge them.

She remained calm in the face of the blinding lights.

Nathaniel and Melanie kept a professional smile on their faces while a thought popped up in their minds.

Lily was merely repeating Melanie's exact words.

Everything sounded the same, but why did the two get suspicious when those words came from Lily? "Ms. Christian, are you admitting that you stole Ms. Thayer's work?" one of the reporters asked.

Lily lightly smiled when she heard such a critical question.

"I did not say that." "Oh?" There was an uproar among the crowd.

The cameras started flashing again instantly, and more reporters were eager to ask Lily questions.