

Vinson was extremely certain that Arielle would not say yes.

Yet, in the next second...

"Sure! I happen to have something that I want to tell you."

Vinson immediately frowned.

She actually agreed? There's even something that she wants to say to him? What gives? What common topic do they possibly have? It's their first time meeting each other!

Vinson could no longer contain himself. He approached Arielle and warned her intentionally, "Arielle, there's one more shot tomorrow. Watch your diet. Don't consume any junk and affect your performance tomorrow."

Before Arielle could answer, Harvey chimed in, "Don't worry, Vin, the CEO. Rest assured that I won't treat her to any junk food that will pose an adverse effect on her work tomorrow. We'll have a healthy diet, all right?"

With a darkened face, Vinson muttered, "It's up to you." Then, he left.

The perplexed Harvey stared at his back and grumbled, "This fellow..."

"What's wrong?" Arielle asked, "Did you guys have any prior arrangement?"

"Yeah, initially, he wanted to gather with a few friends because he has no plans today. Oh well, it doesn't matter. We have plenty of chances to meet up anyways."

"I see. Shall we go?"

"Let's go! What would you like to have?"

Sitting in his car, Vinson witnessed the two of them chatting happily as they boarded their vehicle. Subconsciously, Vinson tightened his grip on the documents in his hand.

His assistant, who was at the driver's seat held his breath as the air was as thick as butter and the tension so thick one could cut it with a knife.

After half an hour, they arrived at an Italian restaurant.

Arielle and Harvey sat opposite each other, enjoying some delicious pasta.

She ate hastily and then went straight into the topic. "Mr. Jupiter, I need to tell you something..."

He put down his fork and interrupted her words. "Are you trying to hide your identity abroad from everyone else?"

Stunned, she nodded. "I have my reasons. So, do you mind pretending that you don't know me when we meet in the future? Nothing like today shall ever happen again."

Arielle articulated her intention calmly, but firmly. An unfathomable coldness layered her tone, making Harvey feel like she was keeping him at arm's length.

It was exceptionally hard for him to take it. He felt his throat tightened at that moment.

As an assertive man, he was a hundred percent sure that everything would go as planned under his control. His self-assurance came from his excellent family background as well as his outstanding abilities.

When he was in the army, he was a marvelous soldier. In the business sector, he remains a competitor that others revered.

The Jupiters were one of the most prominent families in Jadeborough. He could basically command anyone to do anything as he wishes within a snap of his finger.

However, he felt like a hopeless small fry in front of Arielle.

Harvey plastered a smile on his face. "Okay, I understand. You can rest assured that no one else will know that you're San. But... can I get to know you as Arielle?"

Tilting her head, she had a bad hunch about where he was going with that. "What do you mean?"

He took a deep breath and plucked up the courage to make a confession. "Ms. Moore, I like you and I

want to date you!"

Arielle was dumbfounded. "You..."

His chiseled face blushed like a tomato. Clenching his fists, he continued, "I'm not a sophisticated person because I grew up in the army with my parents. So, I don't usually beat around the bush. I'm always straightforward about my intentions."

That was not the first time someone had confessed to Arielle, but it was definitely her first experience at an abrupt one.

She was at a loss for words, allowing Harvey to continue speaking.

He took a generous sip of the wine before continuing, "I can't forget how you saved my life. You've got no idea how attracted I am to a heroic and cool girl like you. Since that very day, I've been looking for you. At first, I thought that I just wanted to repay you for your kindness. Then, as time goes by, I realized that I really like you."

She gazed at him quietly, overwhelmed by his sincerity and anxiousness.



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After a long moment, Arielle finally responded. "Thank you. Frankly, relationship matters are at the bottom of my priority list. I'm sorry, but I have countless issues to deal with."

Immediately, Harvey's bright gaze dimmed with disappointment. His joy seemed to deflate like a balloon pierced with a needle.

Yet, he regained his composure in the blink of an eye. "It's all right. I understand this confession must have taken you by surprise as I said it without warning. Can we remain friends? I won't tell anyone that we have met overseas. Today is the first day we've met." Harvey forced a smile to mask his sorrow.

"I-I...don't even want to make new friends. However, thank you for your offer," Arielle replied after a moment of hesitation.

"What are you planning? Why do you need to conceal your identity and avoid any romance? You can't even make new friends?" Harvey asked suspiciously.

Arielle averted her gaze guiltily. "I'm handling some private matters..."

Harvey sensed that Arielle's mood had dropped. Immediately, he apologized profusely. "I'm sorry, I've overstepped my boundaries. I shouldn't have pestered you with so many questions. However, you can contact me anytime if you need help. No matter the situation, I will help you."

"Thank you," Arielle beamed her reply.

On the other hand, Vinson was feeling frustrated when he received a phone call from Carter.

"Vin, we managed to capture one of the men from the gang that tried to assassinate the two of you when you were overseas."

"Where is he?" Vinson raised a brow when he heard Carter's statement.

"He's in my car. I'll bring him over. It will probably take half an hour before we reach Jadeborough. He was stranded at sea for nearly a month and that has taken a toll on his mental health."

"Got it. Send him to Harvey's residence. We will head there," Vinson ordered after a brief moment of pause.

"Alright."

Vinson was in great spirits after Carter's call. Quickly, he called Harvey.

After all his efforts, Harvey finally managed to get past Arielle's defenses. Just as they were about to start a conversation about the issues overseas, Vinson's call came in.

Harvey declined the call swiftly and planned to continue the conversation. Yet, his phone rang once again as Vinson called him for a second time.

Harvey couldn't help but feel frustrated. *Vinson is the kind who keeps to himself and never gets into a relationship. But why is he ruining it for me?*

"Please excuse me while I answer this call," Harvey said with an apologetic smile.

"Sure."

Finally, Harvey rose to his feet and strode towards the window to answer the call. "Vin, why are you calling me right now? Can't you wait—" Harvey snapped impatiently.

"Where are you?" Vinson interjected before Harvey could finish talking.

"I'm at the Irushean restaurant located opposite the shopping mall near my home. What do you want?"

"We captured the assassin who tried to murder us. My men are bringing him to your house right now. You should come right away!"

"Shouldn't we deal with such matters at the Themis Mansion?" Harvey jolted in shock.

"It's not convenient for me to go there right now. Hurry up and come over!" Vinson continued in an urgent tone.

"But I'm still in the middle of my meal..." Harvey mumbled.

Vinson hung up before Harvey finished his

sentence.

"This b*stard," Harvey cursed under his breath.

When he whirled around, he found that Arielle had packed her things into her purse, waiting for him patiently.

"You..."

"Go ahead; you don't have to worry about me."
Arielle cut him off before he could continue.

"Let me send you back," Harvey added in a hurry.

"It's all right." Arielle refused his offer politely. "I noticed a shopping mall opposite. I want to go for a walk and get some clothes."

Henrick had assigned her countless tasks yesterday; he also asked her to enhance her appearance. *It's impossible that Cindy will help me purchase any clothes. I should look around the shopping mall and find something before I head back.*

"You want to head to the shopping mall?" Harvey asked.

Arielle nodded her head. In response, Harvey smiled at her. "All right, take your time. You can contact me if you need anything."

"Okay," Arielle replied in puzzlement when she noticed his smile. On the other hand, she did not take Harvey's words to heart.

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After all, Arielle didn't like bothering others.

They both descended to the ground floor. Just as Harvey was about to send Arielle off, a black car pulled up in front of the duo.

The car window rolled down to reveal Vinson's handsome face.



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"Vin? Why are you here?" Harvey exclaimed in astonishment.

Vinson cleared his throat. "Coincidentally, I was on the way. I thought that I'd pick you up."

"I can drive myself there. Why don't you go ahead? I'm sending Ms. Moore to the shopping mall. I'll be there in a jiffy."

"Can't you walk such a short distance alone?" Vinson gave Arielle a cold stare.

A deep scowl graced Arielle's forehead upon his brusque words. *He must have been a saint in his past life. How on earth does Vinson have friends when he's so short-tempered?*

Arielle pouted before she turned towards Harvey with a smile. "Go ahead; I can walk over myself. You don't have to send me off."

"But—"

"Stop dallying! Let's go!" Vinson urged again.

Vinson exited the car and dragged Harvey in. Next, he shoved his own assistant out of the car.

Arielle looked at Vinson with confusion. "What's the matter? Can't you go shopping with another person? Why must Harvey be the one who sends you there?" Vinson replied nonchalantly.

"No... I don't need anyone to—"

Before Arielle could finish her sentence, Vinson ordered the driver to start the car.

The car sped off into the distance, leaving Arielle and the assistant behind.

Vinson's assistant had a personality that was a stark contrast to Vinson himself. The assistant wore a bright smile and a cheerful demeanor.

"Ms. Moore, it is an honor to keep you company whilst you shop. What brands are you looking at?" The assistant glanced at Arielle as he spoke.

Arielle returned his gaze with a sharp and cold look.

Under her glare, the tone of his voice dropped until it was as soft as a mouse.

In the end, the assistant coughed awkwardly. "I won't interrupt your shopping. I'll follow after you to ensure your safety," he said.

"I said that I don't need someone to keep me company. You should find Vinson or return to the company. I wish to shop alone," she insisted.

Seeing Arielle's insistence, the assistant left in a hurry.

The enormous shopping mall located opposite the restaurant was called Sunway Mall. Despite its size, there weren't many people in the mall that day as it was a weekday.

The few customers wandering around the mall were mostly rich wives or mothers with their children.

The moment Arielle stepped foot into Sunway Mall, she felt a prickling sensation across her skin. It felt like someone was watching her.

Immediately, Arielle whipped her head around. However, there wasn't anyone there—only the occasional customer who crossed the path behind her. *Was it just my imagination?*

Arielle turned around again. She looked around and walked into a clothing store that caught her eye due to the beautiful clothes on display.

The moment Arielle stepped foot into the store, the shop attendant hurried over to greet her. Yet, the friendliness in her eyes vanished the moment she caught sight of Arielle's simple clothing. "You are free to look around as you please. However, no touching is allowed," the shop attendant said rudely.

"How am I supposed to know the material if I can't touch the clothes?" Arielle frowned.

The shop attendant clicked her tongue impatiently. "This is Feature. Don't you know all of our clothes are made out of high-quality cotton and linen? Naturally, the prices of these clothes are expensive, starting at five digits figure. If you are uncomfortable with the pricing, you should visit other shops."

When she was overseas, Feature was a clothing brand that Arielle wore often. The clothes felt extremely comfortable when worn. Additionally, the designer was a friend of hers.

For the sake of her friend and the comfort of the clothes, Arielle ignored the shop attendant's scorn. She continued to choose the clothes in earnest. *Since it's Feature, I don't have to touch the material. I just have to pick a style that catches my eye.*

The shop attendant scowled when she noticed that Arielle refused to leave. *She even has the audacity to continue shopping! Her canvas shoes look so dirty and ugly. How dare she even step foot into the store! How bold!*

The shop attendant ridiculed Arielle in her thoughts as she trailed after Arielle. It looked like she was afraid that Arielle would steal the clothes.

However, Arielle was someone who wasn't easily intimidated by such rude attendants. Despite being aware of the negative thoughts that the shop attendant harbored towards her, Arielle maintained her calm composure. She remained unbothered and continued to pick the clothes at her own pace. *Anyway, I'm not here to bring the shop attendant home. I'm here to buy some clothes.*

Right at that moment, a high-pitched yet familiar voice echoed from the entrance. "Hey, have the new seasonal pieces arrived yet? Do you have the shirt that I reserved during my last visit?"

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