

My Baby's Daddy Chapter 391

Chapter 391 Accuse Her of Plagiarizing

Felicia had just come out of the washroom when she heard the noise. At that, she asked with a frown, "Who are you guys?"

"I'm George Walden, the director of Savill Jewelry Atelier. We suspect your employee has stolen one of our designer's work, and we have the right to pursue legal liability," the guy said confidently as though it did happen, and it was even dire.

No doubt they were merely causing a ruckus since something like this was normal between rival companies. At that, Felicia sneered and asked, "Where's your proof? Don't slander our employees for no reason, or we'll sue you for defamation."

"We definitely have proof, or why do you think we'd dare come to you? You have a designer named Anastasia Tillman, working under your company, don't you? She has submitted a sketch for next year's spring jewelry show, hasn't she? In reality, she stole my employee's masterpiece and claimed it as her own. We have the right to pursue her legal liability, so if you'll please have her come out."

Felicia couldn't help feeling shocked at that. Who knew that Anastasia would be caught up in a plagiarism scandal? How could this be, though?

"She's on leave right now. I can deal with this."

"Oh, we're not just holding her accountable. We're also suing Bourgeois for mismanagement," George announced arrogantly.

Clearly, they weren't going to quit until they heard the end of it.

"Alright, I'll contact my designer and have her come forward to clarify the incident." With that, Felicia went into her office and called Anastasia.

Anastasia happened to be at Tillman Constructions right then. The reports she was reading were giving her a headache, and she eased immediately upon hearing the ringtone. "Hey, Felicia."

"A director of another jewelry atelier has come to us saying that you allegedly plagiarized their employee's work, Anastasia. Are you free to come and deal with this?"

"What? Plagiarize? Me?" The news baffled Anastasia as there was no way she would ever do something like that!

"Yeah, they're even claiming that the piece you stole is the one you submitted to the jewelry show."

“Impossible! That’s my own design and my own inspiration.” Anastasia retorted.

“I believe you too. However, those guys won’t leave until you come and verify it yourself. Can you rush over?”

“Sure, I’ll be there in a second.”

With that, Anastasia dashed to Bourgeois.

Back at Bourgeois, gossipers began crowding together. Alice was among them as she listened to their whispers about the incident. More than that, it delighted her when most of them were evidently mocking Anastasia.

“Goodness! They’ve even paid to be on the trending page.”

At that, someone read out the headline, saying, “Designer of a famous jewelry atelier shamelessly steals other’s work after running out of ideas. Evidence to prove.”

“Designer, Anastasia Tillman, of Bourgeois by QR is guilty of plagiarizing.”

Alice smiled as she listened to all that. Looks like Savill really wants to make a big deal out of this! Will Anastasia still have the nerve to stay in this industry?

At this point, Felicia ushered the people from Savill to wait in the conference room. After coming out, she deliberated whether to call Elliot, but in the end, she decided to wait until Anastasia had arrived before doing so.

After all, it was an inglorious issue for Anastasia.

As she dashed toward the lobby, the receptionists all shot her nasty looks. Clearly, everyone at Bourgeois had heard about her incident.

When Anastasia showed up in the office, the gossip stopped immediately, leaving only a mocking gaze staring at her.

“Here, Anastasia,” Felicia called out to her.

At that, Anastasia went into Felicia’s office. As soon as the door closed, Felicia looked at her gravely. “Anastasia, they’re making a big deal out of this. They are clearly planning to ruin Bourgeois’ reputation.”

Of course, Anastasia could understand Felicia’s worries. At that, she raised her hand and swore, “I swear that I’ve never stolen anyone’s work.”

“Alright, I trust you. Also, I haven’t told President Presgrave about this yet. You decide whether to inform him.”

“I want to meet these guys first.” An exasperated Anastasia wanted to set the record straight. How dare they accuse her of plagiarizing for no apparent reason.

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Chapter 392 One Rotten Apple Spoils the Whole Barrel

“Take it easy. I have a feeling they’ve come prepared, so we’d better not fall into their trap.” Felicia patted Anastasia’s shoulder.

After entering the conference room, Anastasia looked toward the five people sitting there. There were two lawyers, two Savill staff, and the director.

“Are you Anastasia Tillman, the person who stole my designer’s work?” George sneered as soon as he saw Anastasia.

At that, Anastasia stared coldly at him. “On what basis do you say that?”

“We have proof, of course. In fact, you replicated nearly the whole of my designer’s piece and submitted it to the show.”

“I know well if I’ve done so.” Anastasia continued to stare coldly at George, not intimidated at all.

Just then, one of them took out an iPad and opened the sketch before handing it to Anastasia. “Miss Tillman, why don’t you take a look at these two pieces first? One of them is our designer’s drawing and the other one is yours. They’re practically identical.”

Anastasia took the iPad with a frown and couldn’t help being stupefied upon seeing the sketches. They were indeed identical with only differences in a few details.

“This is my work. You guys stole it!” Anastasia retorted as she put the iPad down.

“We get that you’re not talented enough, Miss Tillman, and that you want to establish your reputation as a designer by plagiarizing my designer’s work,” George said with utter sympathy.

At that, Felicia stood up for Anastasia. “That’s where you’re wrong. Miss Tillman is our most talented designer, and she will never steal somebody’s work.”

“Naturally, we would gather all the evidence before coming to look for you. Firstly, this piece is from our chief designer, Jacqueline Sherman. Secondly, she released it earlier than you did. What’s more, the finished product was placed in our company’s display case last month. However, Miss Tillman submitted her sketch on the twelfth of this month. According to the timeline, she could’ve plagiarized the piece.”

“Impossible!” Anastasia held her breath, shocked that Savill had moved so quickly.

Felicia’s face turned slightly grim as well. She remembered that Anastasia had keyed her piece into the company’s system on the second of this month and submitted the sketch to the show a week ago. Hence, the timing was very unfavorable for Anastasia.

Nonetheless, she still trusted that Anastasia wouldn’t do something like this.

“Miss Tillman, Savill will not tolerate such behavior. You have two options—take down your piece, apologize to Savill publicly on behalf of Bourgeois, and compensate for our loss. Otherwise, we will pursue your legal liability for plagiarizing our work and demand compensation. Of course, you’d still have to apologize to us.”

George pressed on, and he even concluded that Anastasia was the thief.

At that, Felicia said, “We need to dig into this before giving you an answer. Why don’t you guys head back first?”

“Alright, seeing that we’re fellow traders, I’ll give you until 3.00PM tomorrow.” George added disdainfully, “How unfortunate for something like this to happen within the jewelry design industry.”

Anastasia was still baffled when the door closed behind her. How did Savill manage to display her work in advance?!

She was certain that was her design, for she had sketched it out with her own hands. In fact, that piece came to her when she sat alone until late at night under the starry sky.

How did she become the plagiarist?!

The true thief was Jacqueline!

Anastasia heard people gossiping about her the entire way back to her office. Some who long had a problem with her couldn’t care less about offending her anymore.

“I thought she really was capable, but it turns out she got to her position by stealing other people’s work.”

“Well, isn’t that the truth? Thanks to her, our company’s reputation will be ruined.”

“I swear, one rotten apple spoils the whole barrel.”

Meanwhile, Alice entered Anastasia’s office with a cup of coffee, gloating. “I thought you were something! Who knew that you only rose to fame with such shortcuts?!”

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Chapter 393 Elliot Has Come

Anastasia remained silent in her seat.

“I think it’s best if you don’t ask President Presgrave to save you, for it’ll only make things worse. You’d better quickly apologize and compensate Savill to save our company from further losses,” Alice reminded her.

Of course, she didn’t want Elliot to be involved in this. Though she was confident that they wouldn’t have anything on her, she didn’t want to be panicky either.

“Why should I apologize when I never plagiarized in the first place? The one who should be apologizing is Savill.” Anastasia looked up and stared coldly at Alice.

Alice hit the roof at that. “Are you going to keep acting stubborn, Anastasia? You’ve already become a joke in the jewelry design industry. Are you only going to apologize after you’ve ruined all of Bourgeois’ reputation? I will not let you destroy the company’s future!”

Anastasia’s only option was to apologize.

Anastasia stood up in response and said firmly, “I will not apologize before I get to the bottom of this.”

Alice couldn’t help choking and snapped, “Just because President Presgrave likes you doesn’t mean you can act lawlessly, you know. It’s already embarrassing that you’ve plagiarized. Are you going to make a bigger deal out of this?!”

“I didn’t plagiarize, so I won’t apologize.” One could tell from Anastasia’s beautiful face that she wasn’t about to compromise.

Alice was taken aback, for she had never seen someone as stubborn as Anastasia.

At that, she glared at Anastasia and uttered, “Well, I can’t wait to see what your fate will be!”

Meanwhile, Felicia pondered over something as she stood in her office. Savill was coming at Anastasia with full force, putting her at a disadvantage. With that, she decided to give Elliot a call.

“Hello?” Elliot’s voice came from the other end of the line.

“President, there’s something you need to know.”

After hearing the whole story from Felicia, he asked concerningly, “What did she say?”

“Anastasia is sure that she didn’t plagiarize.”

“Alright, I’ll come over now.” With that, Elliot ended the call.

Bourgeois was still in the process of moving; since Elliot was at the Presgrave Group, he needed some time to get there.

Meanwhile, Grace brought a cup of tea for Anastasia while she sat in her office.

“Anastasia, I believe you didn’t plagiarize. No matter what everyone else says, I believe you,” said Grace as she comforted her, feeling bad for the woman.

“Thanks, Grace.” Anastasia was grateful to have an assistant like Grace.

After Grace left, Anastasia propped her forehead, trying to figure out how the whole thing came to be.

She had finished her first draft on the tenth of last month, and Savill had already put the piece on their display by the end of last month. In other words, they had about twenty days in between amending and coming up with the finished product. If their workshop worked overtime on this piece of jewelry, it was indeed possible for them to launch it in about a fortnight at best.

However, the sketch had always been with her, so who could’ve handed it to Savill?

Someone had evidently leaked it, and it had already happened when she came up with the first draft.

However, who wanted her gone for good? A designer would no longer have a place in the industry if they were branded for plagiarizing. After all, it was just as bad as murder.

In the end, Anastasia determined that someone had stolen her sketch between the tenth and eighteenth of November.

Still, several people had come in and out of her office, and she needed more time to find out exactly who did it.

Then again, Savill wanted her to answer by 3.00PM the next day. They clearly didn’t want to give her time to investigate.

More than that, they were also being ruthless, dragging Bourgeois’ reputation down while suing her for plagiarism.

Bourgeois’ fame now had overshadowed many companies in the market and also garnered a high approval rate. Hence, no doubt fellow traders would want to bring down this strong competitor.

Anastasia was searching for her first draft when she heard someone pushing the door open. At that, she looked up and was surprised.

Elliot had come!

“Felicia told me about your situation.” Elliot propped his hand on the desk and asked when he saw her searching for something, “What are you looking for?”

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Chapter 394 She Couldn’t Falsely Accuse the Innocent

After Anastasia finally found her first draft, she put it on her desk and said, “This is my first draft, but it can’t be used as evidence to prove I didn’t plagiarize.”

The time and date the company assessed were based on when the piece was keyed into the system. Clearly, Savill had the upper hand in this.

“I believe you.” Elliot looked at her with absolute trust.

Anastasia choked at that, and she smiled wryly. “Do you really have that much faith in me?”

“Who am I suppose to believe when I don’t even believe in my woman?” Elliot’s gaze was filled with resolution.

He got her a little stump, and she evaded his gaze. Nonetheless, his words had given her a confidence boost.

“Thanks. Now, I want to get to the bottom of this and see who leaked my sketch to Savill.” With that, she looked down at her sketch.

This was one of her favorite sketches, but now, Savill claimed it as their own and even slandered her for it. How exasperating it was!

“Find that person, and I’ll teach them a lesson for you.” Elliot’s face turned grim. That person probably had a death wish since they dared to touch his beloved woman.

Right as Anastasia looked up, he continued, “Also, Savill will have to pay a heavy price for slandering you.”

Anastasia was rendered at a loss for words.

She had a feeling Savill would be facing their doom.

“Alright, tough guy. Let’s investigate first!” Anastasia decided to check the office’s surveillance footage before they did anything further.

The security didn’t dare snub Anastasia’s request, sending the footage of said time to her laptop. With that, Elliot and Felicia kept her company as they looked through it together.

Meanwhile, Alice couldn’t help but begin to panic in her office. She hadn’t expected Elliot to actually step in, and it got her seriously tensed.

Elliot was all-powerful, and he had very strong influences. What was more, he had a bunch of formidable lawyers. Even if Anastasia was sued, his lawyers would be able to win the case.

Since it had come to this, Anastasia definitely wouldn’t put up with it. Right then, she sat in front of her laptop while she looked through the footage. She swore that she would find the culprit.

Elliot’s heart ached as he sat next to her, watching her stare into the screen with her brows locked into a deep furrow, non-blinking. “Do you have any enemies in the office? Alternatively, is there anyone who wants to harm you?”

Two people immediately came to her mind—Alice and Aliona. These two were openly hostile toward her. However, she couldn’t rule out the possibility of someone using her sketch to make money, or that Savill had planted a spy in Bourgeois.

“Hold on. We’ll talk after I’m done watching the footage.” Anastasia watched the surveillance footage frame by frame, fast-forwarding and rewinding from time to time.

“Why don’t you get back to work, Director Evans? I’ll keep her company.” Elliot pulled a chair over and sat next to Anastasia. He decidedly ignored the important work in Presgrave Group, choosing to solve the incident with her instead.

“You should go back to work too! I can handle this myself.” Anastasia didn’t want to take up his time either.

“I’ll watch with you.” Elliot wasn’t going anywhere. After all, nothing was more important than clearing her name now.

Anastasia’s head spun from watching an hour of footage. Seeing that it was about time to pick Jared up, she turned to Elliot. “I might have to stay and watch the footage tonight. Can you please ask Nigel to pick Jared up and babysit him for the night?”

“Alright, I’ll call him.” With that, Elliot dialed Nigel’s number.

Nigel was their number one nanny, and more than that, he was among the only few Anastasia trusted.

After hanging up, Elliot stayed by Anastasia's side with peace of mind, watching the surveillance footage with her. Meanwhile, Anastasia had been recording the time and person who came in and out of her office.

She didn't relax for a moment since she didn't want to falsely accuse the innocent, nor would she spare the culprit.

As Savill wanted an answer by the following afternoon, she had to look through all the footage and find the culprit by that night.

Now that Nigel was babysitting Jared, she could focus on work. Sometime later, Grace brought her a little pick-me-up. After taking a few sips of the coffee, Anastasia went back to staring at her laptop screen.

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Chapter 395 Keep an Eye on Her

"Do you want me to help you out?" Elliot wanted to take over for Anastasia.

"No, thanks." She had to inspect it herself.

"In that case, you should take a short break."

"I'm good." Anastasia's eyes were a little bloodshot, but she wasn't in the mood to take a break.

"You'll wear your eyes out." Elliot's heart broke as he watched from the side.

"I have to finish watching it all." At that, she forced herself to close her eyes and take a break. While she rubbed her temples, she suddenly felt a big, warm palm massaging her neck lightly. It felt super relaxing.

Meanwhile, Alice snuck a peek outside to find Elliot massaging Anastasia's neck, causing her to feel jealous yet horrified.

She had clearly underestimated Anastasia and Elliot's relationship. More than that, she feared that they'd discover her crimes.

After returning to her office, she unlocked her phone and grew nervous upon seeing the five hundred thousand transferred into her account earlier that day.

Anastasia returned to work after taking a short break. Meanwhile, Elliot took a sip from her coffee and suddenly thought of something. With that, he took his phone and headed out.

He didn't affect her progress, but it didn't mean he didn't have other ways of investigating.

When he came back in, Anastasia was still fixing her eyes on the laptop screen. However, her brows suddenly locked into a deep furrow upon seeing someone coming out of her office.

Alice had stayed in her office for less than two minutes before coming out. However, when she left, she looked visibly guilt-ridden.

At that, Anastasia rewound and scrutinized Alice's expression. Then, she saved this portion of the footage before continuing her search.

Time had unknowingly come to 7.00PM, and Anastasia already had two cups of coffee at this point. Meanwhile, Elliot never looked away from her this whole time either. He finally grabbed her hand when he saw that her eyes were bloodshot and that she was refusing dinner.

"Dinner first, and you can continue your search later."

"I don't want to eat." She was stressed out since she was being accused of plagiarism.

At that, Elliot's deep, domineering voice traveled to her ears. "You have to even if you don't want to. If you're worried that Savill won't let you off the hook, then there's no reason for you to fear at all. At worst, I'll acquire them tomorrow, and your problem will be solved."

"Alright, you win! We'll eat at the restaurant across here," Anastasia said, brushing her hair to the back.

While leaving Anastasia's office hand in hand, Elliot had his bodyguards come up and guard the space, forbidding anyone from entering.

When Alice found out that Anastasia was staying back to investigate, she stayed as well. Right then, she was texting Jacqueline and telling her about Anastasia's investigation progress.

'You guys are sure you'll win the lawsuit, right? You can't drag me down with you.'

"My boss is confident. Rest assured!"

Naturally, Alice couldn't be assured, for she didn't mention one important fact to Jacqueline—Anastasia's relationship with Elliot. Savill only knew that Anastasia was one of Bourgeois' designers. What they didn't know was that she was also the girlfriend of Presgrave Group's CEO.

This time, Alice had a creeping sense of panic that Savill would be meeting their doom.

She thought she should pack up and leave the country. When she came out, she snuck a peek at the two bodyguards stationed in front of Anastasia's office, and it affirmed her decision to leave the county immediately.

In the restaurant, Anastasia didn't have much appetite despite the table of good food in front of her.

"Don't overthink stuff. If anything, I'll support you." With that, Elliot put some food on her plate, which she ate before saying with integrity, "I can support myself."

Financially independent women were the most confident, after all.

Following that, he pushed a bowl of bird's nest soup to her. "Finish this."

Anastasia suddenly had a feeling she was being force-fed by this man. However, she still did as she was told.

Elliot's phone beeped just then, and he checked it to find a text from Rey. 'President, I discovered that half a million was transferred to Alice Thompson's account at 2.00PM today. It was transferred from Savill Jewelry Atelier's public account.'

In response to that, he replied, 'Keep an eye on her.'