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Pausing for a while, I asked, "What's awaiting Felix?"

John told me the truth, "He will be sentenced to death or thrown behind bars for the rest of his life since he was the culprit behind a few innocent lives. Previously, Hector allowed Felix to get away after all the nasty things he has done because no one was around in J City. Since Uncle Louis has shown up and reported the things that Felix was involved in, he will never be set free anymore! As Hector was the one backing him up over the years, he, too, will have to bear the consequences of his actions. Honestly speaking, you did a great job because your action has allowed Uncle Louis to get his hands on the foundation of the Moore family."

I wasn't conscious of the exact relationship that was involved behind the scene, but I knew Cameron was a close acquaintance of Hector. They must have some sort of dodgy deals that could be exposed through a simple investigation. Perhaps Uncle Louis could get to the bottom of the Moore family's scandals over the years. If the Moore family wished to protect the sake of the greater crowd, they would have to forsake Cameron and chase her away from the family.

John stared at me for a short while before asking, "So... are you happy about this?"

I shrugged my shoulders and said, "Hmm... Not really, because the best is yet to come! This is merely the beginning of a wild ride!"

Before heading over to meet Stacey, I found out Louis was in town to carry out his duty, but he would depart after he was done with the things he had scheduled beforehand. Initially, I asked Louis to join me for a simple meal, but he had a lot of things on his plate and didn't have time for me.

Therefore, I headed over and meet Stacey in advance.

When she asked me to do her a favor, I thought of the options available. After a while, I figured that Stacey only wanted me to make use of Ashton's influence to keep Felix behind bars for a few years, alive.

However, I had the exact opposite idea. Since I was involved in the operation, I figured he would definitely come after me once he regained freedom. Thus, I would never allow him to make it out alive, let alone getting his revenge.

I decided to give him a fatal blow through Louis' aid after I had everything sorted out.

In spite of the flawless plan, I was traumatized because I was merely a step away from hell a few hours ago. After John departed, I fell asleep.

Halfway through my sleep, I opened my eyes and caught the silhouette of a certain someone by my side. It was Ashton – he stared at me with a poker face in the pitch-black ward that was illuminated by the streetlamps, making him extraordinarily unfathomable.

I looked at him quietly because I was conscious he was infuriated by my careless acts. He refused to talk to me the moment we made our way to the hospital. However, he urged the doctor to keep an eye on me over and over again as he was afraid something bad might happen to me.

Suddenly, the nurse switched on the light because it was about time to change the bag of saline solution, but she noticed something seemed to be off and made her way out since it wouldn't be necessary to change it yet.

I noticed his wrinkled blazer once the light was switched on. Ashton had a relatively haggard look while his eyes were bloodshot. Although he had chapped lips, it didn't impact his ethereal-looking face at all.

I thought he wouldn't break the silence should I keep quiet throughout the night, but he initiated a conversation and asked, "Aren't you going to talk about it?"

To be honest, I couldn't be sure of the things to talk about because all sorts of things flashed through my mind, including the part where his participation was all part of my intended plan.

Although he didn't expose me, I knew he had figured it out after he rendezvoused with John and Louis to rescue me.

I gave it another thought and put on a pitiable front in response because I thought he would feel better after teaching me another lesson as he had always done.

Ashton got infuriated and had his abysmal pair of eyes glued to me when he noticed my response. "How could you get yourself involved because of a jerk? Is it worth it?"

He was worried about my condition because I was bruised all over my body. Therefore, he asked in a serious tone to express his concerns.

Thus, of course, I replied with a miserable look in an aggrieved tone, "I-It hurts..."

I wasn't lying. It was like nothing I had ever felt throughout my entire life because Felix went all out and strangled me as though he wanted me dead. Thankfully, I managed to make it out alive.

Upon that, Ashton sneered sarcastically, "Oh? Does that mean you can feel the pain?"

I pursed my lips and played along with him because I was aware of his frustration. "I didn't expect him to be such an aggressive man either! At first, I thought you guys would rush to my rescue after a few punches, but it turned out to be slightly off track at the end."

"Are you blaming us for not being there for you?"

I shook my head and asserted, "No! I'm grateful to have everyone there in the nick of time!"

Just then, he recalled something and asked solemnly, "Why is Savini in the room when you're there to avenge Stacey?

I was surprised by Savini's response as well. But when I thought about it, I reckoned Stacey was the one who had lured him over, but the cunning man knocked himself to the wall. Thus, he managed to make it seemed as if he were there to rescue me.

I didn't have the evidence that he was the one who had abducted me previously. So they might not believe me even if I brought it up in front of the rest. Upon that thought, I decided to keep everything to myself.

"I'm not sure, but he seems to be a close acquaintance of Felix and has dropped by to meet him."

However, Ashton, knew that I was holding something back. Then, he glared at me and warned me, "Scarlett, tell me the truth!"

Raising my chin against my will, a dangerous glint could be seen in his eyes. "Are you sure you have never seen him before?"

I nodded and assured, "What makes you think I have?"

"Are you telling me Savini, who's the vice president of a technology company in A City, has shown up in the hotel because he was there to rescue you? Have you always perceived me as a fool? Why would such an influential corporate figure sacrifice himself to protect someone he isn't affiliated with?"

I was baffled because I didn't expect Cameron to be affiliated with another influential figure from A City. Frankly, I was shocked by Savini's actual identity.

"Are you going to believe me if I tell you he's an accomplice of Felix?" I asked as I looked at Ashton.

Frowning, Ashton queried, "Did he deliberately hurt himself?"

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I acknowledged his words with a nod and said, "The cunning man started hurting himself once he noticed that the cops were near."

"Did he know you before this?" I furrowed my brows when I heard his question because he had brought up the topic I wished to avoid the most.

A few seconds later, I told him the truth, "Rebecca used to send him to abduct me."

"When?"

"It was during the period when I had just taken over AC Credit and HiTech..."

Ashton frowned once again. He rebuked my statement with a determined look, "It's impossible... Rebecca couldn't be the one behind it..."

I chuckled at his response, but I felt dejected deep down. "I know Rebecca still holds a special place in your heart..."

Immediately, his face loomed with a gloomy expression as he stated, "It would be impossible for her to utilize Cameron's subordinate because she had just reunited with them back then."

"Ha! You're right because I don't think she's capable of executing such a complicated scheme! To begin with, she was never a smart woman!" I had no intention of rebutting his statement.

"Scarlett!"

Initially, I thought he was there because he was worried about me. However, I seemed to have misperceived his intentions – he was there to interrogate me.

As I was sleepy, I yawned and said, "Mr. Fuller, it's time for you to leave because I need to sleep."

Nevertheless, the infuriated man showed no signs of leaving as he leaned against the chair while glaring at me in the eyes indifferently.

His presence had intimidated the nurse who had dropped by to change the bag of fluid. She wouldn't stop shivering in fear because she thought she had done something wrong and offended Ashton.

After she got the bag of fluid changed, she heaved a sigh of relief and walked out of the ward with the used bag of fluid immediately.

However, after she walked a few steps, she turned around and stuttered while delivering her instructions. "S-Sir, you have to apply the o-ointment that has been prescribed by the doctor on Ms. Stovall's n-neck. I believe Ms. Stovall has the ointment with h-her."

Immediately after the nurse departed, he stared at me and asked callously, "Where's the ointment?"

"I'll deal with it myself! You should just go back!" I pouted my lips as usual because I had enough of him.

He got up from his seat and neglected my words, searching high and low for the ointment. After he found the ointment on the nightstand, he squeezed some of it on his palms.

"I can do it myself!" As he approached me to apply it to my neck, I inched away from him because I didn't want him anywhere near me.

It was too late because, by the time I finished my sentence, I could feel his palms on my neck. I pursed my lips and allowed him to apply the ointment.

I frowned due to the tingling sensation I felt and tried to move away from him because it was unpleasant.

"Does it hurt?" He hushed and started blowing my bruised neck to alleviate the pain I felt.

"No!" Since I was the one who decided to get myself hurt, I wasn't in a position to complain about the injuries.

"You have to refrain from acting on impulse in the future. Even if you want to lure someone out, you have to ensure your own safety."

I closed my eyes and remained silent while nodding because I had no intention to carry on with the conversation.

After he applied the ointment on my neck, he asked, "Anywhere else that hurts?"

I shook my head because there were certain parts that I couldn't share with him.

He took me by surprise and unfolded the blanket, exposing my stomach that was bruised due to Felix's aggressive kick. The tender skin on my stomach had turned purple as a result.

Glaring at me once more, he gritted his teeth and asked, "Does it hurt?"

I knew it wouldn't do me any good to reply to him, so I kept mum.

After he applied the ointment on my stomach, he checked on my body to ensure I was fine before placing the ointment aside and tucking me in. In the end, the man instructed, "You should get some rest."

"Alright... Thanks!" I replied with a nod.

He narrowed his eyes and queried, "What are we?"

"Uh... Humans?"

I rephrased my reply because I knew he was rendered speechless by my reply.

"We're a married couple!"

"Since we're a married couple, is it necessary for you to express your gratitude for such a trivial favor?" He cast a skeptical gaze at me.

Ultimately, I decided to keep my mouth shut because I was at a loss for words.

After spending most of my time on the bed for the upcoming few days, I heard the word of Felix's conviction. John was spot on – Felix was sentenced to death due to his involvement with a few other victims.

Meanwhile, Hector was terminated from his position because of his wrongdoings over the years.

As there were a lot of people that were involved in their dealings, Louis instructed some of his men to investigate those who used to be in touch with Hector when he brought back Hector to K City with him.

On the other hand, Marcus had long made his way back to K City because of an emergency that had arisen within his company that required his attention.

After Ashton had people back at the company to take over his role, we made our trip back to K City as well.

A week after we returned, we found out Rebecca had lost her baby. Consequently, she started behaving like a madwoman due to her miscarriage.

I had to follow up with the deal we had with OrbitTech and set up the necessary groundwork for the operation to take place soon.

Therefore, I spent the entire week working after we returned because I had a full schedule.

As Felix had launched a fatal blow on my abdomen area, we dropped by the hospital for a few rounds of check-ups as the doctor in J City advised.

When Ashton and I dropped by the hospital, we encountered Cameron and Rebecca in the corridor. They were on their way to the doctor's office for an examination as well.

To be honest, I was shocked because Rebecca was much skinnier than the last time we met.

Rebecca's eyes started brimming with tears as soon as she saw Ashton. She catapulted in his direction while wailing, "Ash, you're finally here for me!"

Ashton evaded her, but the fragile woman, who had collapsed to the ground, grasped Ashton's pants and stopped him. "Ash, I have lost my child! When Parker passed on, he told me I would live a blissful life as long as I have you by my side! What am I supposed to do when you're no longer around? I-I can't rely on anyone else... My life is miserable without you!"

The moment she spoke about Parker, Ashton leaned over and helped her up. "You need to take good care of yourself because you still have a long way to go in life."

I couldn't be sure of the emotions behind his words because he enunciated his reply callously.

Nevertheless, his words of encouragement were the best remedy Rebecca could ever ask to pull herself together. She held him firmly in between her arms as she started wailing again. "A-Ash, I don't want anything else… Please forgive me for the things I have done! A-As long as you're willing to forgive me, I'm willing to forsake other things in my life… I'll behave myself and treat your wife with respect as though she's my beloved sister!"

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Sobbing, she declared, "I was too stubborn and unreasonable. Ash, I'll change my bad habits. I'll be good!"

Ashton frowned. After all, he had been taking care of her for years. It wouldn't be easy for him to forget her.

He glanced at me without a word, and I immediately knew what he was about to do.

After a pause, I told him, "You can stay with her. I'll go to the doctor myself."

He pursed his lips. "I'll join you later?"

"No. She needs you more than I do." He was obviously worried about her. If he leaves with me, he'll be worried the whole time. Why would I humiliate myself?

Tears rolled down Rebecca's face. "Scarlett, are you still mad at me? I apologize on behalf of my mom. I would've stopped her if I had an inkling of her intention."

With that, she fell to her knees with a loud thud while sobbing profusely.

Everyone in the hallway, including the patients in their wards, craned their necks to see what was going on.

Cameron, who was silent for the entire time, immediately tried to help her up. As her daughter refused to budge, she sank to her knees, too. "Scarlett, it was all my doing. Rebecca doesn't know I tried to abduct you. You made Rebecca lose her baby the same way. Do you feel better now?"

I furrowed my frows.. Interesting.

"Young lady, everyone makes mistakes. You should forgive them."

"Yes! Besides, she's still ill. Don't make things difficult for them."

The crowd's voice grew louder, criticizing me for being unreasonable.

I had run out of ideas. "Ladies, if you want me to forgive you, pay your respects to my child, whom you choked to death. Rebecca, your miscarriage has nothing to do with me. Did I choke or suffocate your child to death? You were the one who was afraid Sally might run a DNA test after you gave birth. If the results prove the child isn't Ashton's, he'll leave you for sure. You dared not give birth to your child and blamed its death on me!

"If I am that capable, I would've saved my child when Ms. Anderson kidnapped me and murdered my child. You did something wrong. I'm not obliged to forgive you every time you beg for forgiveness shamelessly."

With that, I stepped back and entered the elevator.

Ashton soon caught up to me as we entered the car.

I sneered. "Mr. Fuller, won't you accompany your crush?"

He sat in the driver's seat and grabbed my chin to kiss me deeply.

"Scarlett, why are you this rude?"

I shoved him away. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hurt your crush. I'll control myself next time."

After struggling in vain, my anger heightened. "Ashton, you don't have to insult me this way. If you want to defend her, you're welcome to slap me. We'll both feel better that way."

He stopped and forced me to meet his gaze. "You're not mad. Is it because it's unnecessary, or do I disgust you?"

I was stunned.

His gaze darkened. "Do you think I will defend Rebecca? You don't think of me as your husband? Am I that heartless?"

I pressed my lips together and glanced at him silently.

"No!" I responded after a pause.

He felt responsible for Rebecca. Even if he knew what was going on, he had to fulfil his promise to Parker.

Besides, both Rebecca and I lost our babies. To others, we suffered from the same plight, so we should call it even.

From the perspective of a bystander, I shouldn't be holding a grudge against her.

Ashton gazed at me before sneering. "You've never thought of me as the father of your child. You don't care what I'll do, right? After losing the child, you asked for Marcus' help. You wanted to help John. You've never thought of asking me. Scarlett, what am I to you? A useless ornament?"

I was amused by his outburst. "Ashton, you're the one who can't get over Rebecca. You weren't there when I was in trouble. Did you forget how you went to Rebecca several times after midnight? I don't know what your feelings for me are."

Why is he so upset? I've tried my best to be magnanimous. Whenever he went to Rebecca, I said nothing. I didn't hold a grudge against her for killing my baby and forgave her. When she needs him, I even advised him to take care of her.

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Ashton stared at me wordlessly. Holding back his anger, he demanded. "Tell me. What should I do? Huh?"

His reaction upset me. "You don't have to do anything to please me. Do whatever you want. If you want to take care of Rebecca, go ahead."

"Ha!" He looked down and scoffed. Straightening his back, he whipped out his cigarettes. "Should I feel lucky for having such a magnanimous and understanding wife?"

His voice was full of contempt and mockery.

I replied lightly, "Mr. Fuller, you're welcome. I'm just doing my job."

Yes. I was saying everything out of fury.

He puffed on his cigarette and asked sternly, "Are we seriously arguing now?"

"Arguing? Are we arguing now?"

Ashton suddenly snickered and put out his cigarette. "When will you stop talking that way?"

"What do you mean? I'm just going along with you," I responded with a chuckle.

He inhaled sharply to control his anger. "Going along with me? That's just your presumption. Just be honest with me instead of hurting each other with mean words. We're a couple, not rivals. There's no need to argue to decide who's right and who's wrong every time. Do you understand, Scarlett?"

After a moment, I got off the car and picked up a brick by the flower bed. Handing the brick to him, I said, "Okay. I want you to beat the disgusting mother and daughter duo up. Tell them I'm no pushover. Also, tell Rebecca she has no right to take my husband away from me!"

Arching a brow, I gestured at the brick. "So? Will you go?"

Ashton was astounded by my reaction. "Are you sure?" he inquired helplessly.

"Why? You won't do it?" I glowered at him.

A hint of a smile appeared in his gaze. "Do you want me to end up in jail? So you can marry another man?"

I rolled my eyes at him. Returning the brick back to the flower bed, I got into the car again.

As I was no longer mad, he chuckled faintly. "What do you want for lunch?"

"I'm not hungry!" I wasn't hungry after getting mad earlier.

He started the engine and shot me a look. "That's because you didn't exercise regularly. You'll be starving after a rigorous workout at home."

It took me a while to realize what he meant. "Ashton, stop it!"

He sped away and replied faintly, "We barely did it for the past month. Scarlett, are you trying to deprive me of my husbandly rights?"

Damn it. He's f\*cking annoying.

Sensing my anger, he added, "I've been holding back since we came back from J City. Stop torturing me."

"Ashton, will you stop?" Why is he saying this in broad daylight?

Back at the villa, before I could step out of the car, he carried me in his arms and went upstairs at once.

Both Mrs. Eriksen and Molly were at home.

In our bedroom, I avoided his gaze.

"Ashton, it's not dark yet. Let's not do this now."

As he inched nearer and ignored my plea, I immediately suggested, "Why don't you take a shower first?"

He frowned. "What's wrong?"

"Well, we just came back from the hospital, which is full of germs. You should take a shower."

"Okay."

Sensing my discomfort, he nodded gently. He picked me up, and we entered the bathroom together.

Winter had come. K City was chilly by now, but luckily our house was fitted with central heating. The bathroom was steaming hot, and my cheeks were flushed a crimson red soon.

Ashton's deep and tender voice soon made me lose my guard.

"Don't say no to me. Scarlett, we're married. You're my closest kin. No matter what happens, we'll face it together. The Moore family isn't as simple as you think. But don't worry. I'll be by your side."

His sudden announcement confused me.

He didn't explain further and left after a while.

The following day, I woke up with an aching body.

My eyes were shut as I grimaced in pain.

Ashton buckled his belt and planted a kiss on my forehead. He caressed my face lightly, but I couldn't bring myself to move.

Soon, he left the bedroom. I was drained out by the activities last night.

With my eyes shut, I tried to drift off to sleep. But no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't sleep as my body felt awful. Tears prickled at my eyes. I buried myself under the covers and started sobbing.

Footsteps sounded in the bedroom as Ashton's voice, laced with fury, rang out. "Scarlett, why are you crying?"

I pressed my lips and said nothing.

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He pulled my covers open, causing the sunlight to blind my eyes momentarily.

Scowling, he inquired, "Are you trying to suffocate yourself?"

I wasn't in the mood to talk to him. "Ashton, can't I vent my feelings? Have you ever been considerate of my feelings?"

Knitting his brows together, he asked, "Are you unwell?"

I felt tempted to strangle him. "Can't you feel it?" I gritted out angrily.

His frown deepened. "Let's go to the hospital."

Infuriated by his suggestion, I threw a pillow at him. "Get out!"

Ashton left without a word and shut the door behind him.

I shut my eyes and lay on the bed, but I was too upset to sleep.

Mrs. Eriksen brought breakfast upstairs and called me hesitantly. "Letty, I brought breakfast. Why don't you eat something and apply some ointment before going back to sleep?"

"No need!" I wasn't someone who'd throw a tantrum without reason, so I merely replied to her coolly.

She paused before explaining, "Letty, Mr. Ashton left a while ago. He told me to watch you eat a little. If you feel unwell, apply the ointment and get some rest."

"No need!" My voice grew louder.

Mrs. Eriksen stopped trying to persuade me and placed the tray on the table. Before she left, something occurred to her. "Letty, actually, Mr. Ashton adores you. I watched him grow up. His grandfather brought him up, so he doesn't know how to take care of others. He's good at solving problems because that was what his grandfather taught him. Mr. Fuller wanted him

to take over the business. Mr. Ashton wasn't born a cold-hearted person. He might not know how to please you. But it's obvious he cares about you a lot."

She added, "He wanted to come up earlier, but you were mad at him. Hence, he told me to relay his wishes. You're a married couple and should understand each other. Don't argue over trivial matters as that would only bring harm to your relationship."

I was too exhausted to think of a reply. "I got it, Mrs. Eriksen. You should go back to work. I'd like to rest now."

She nodded. "Okay. Remember to eat your breakfast later."

She left right after saying that.

I lay in bed and stared at the scenery outside the window with my half-opened eyes. Winter in K City was a dreadful affair. It was drizzling now. This wouldn't help me feel better at all.

Every inch of my body was throbbing painfully. I couldn't fall asleep or bring myself to eat anything.

I wanted to lie in bed and do nothing.

I stared blankly at the ceiling. Actually, the news of Rebecca's miscarriage didn't lift my mood at all.

Annoyed, I tried to force myself to sleep. However, the more I wanted to sleep, the more my body refused to cooperate with me.

After a few tries, I sat up in frustration and made my way to the balcony.

I opened all the windows. The drizzling rain was splattering lightly as the chilly wind gushed into the bedroom, waking me up instantly. I felt terribly uncomfortable, so I sat by the window and allowed the rain and wind to waft through the open window.

The trees outside the villa were bare. No birds were visible. It was a desolate scene.

As the drizzle turned into a huge downpour, the annoyance in my heart faded away gradually.

After calming down, I felt sleepy. I leaned against the wall next to the window, closing my eyes to sleep.

Time flew by quickly. When I was about to drift off, someone pushed the door open.

Ashton had returned. He spotted me on the balcony as the cold wind wafted into our bedroom.

I sat up as he gazed at me, my drowsiness gone.

He hurried over to me and gritted out, "Scarlett, what are you doing?"

Pulling me back into the bedroom, he demanded, "Am I that disgusting to you? Why are you torturing yourself? Who do you think you are?"

After being awake for over twenty-four hours, I wasn't in the mood to argue with him. I looked up at him and lowered my gaze in exhaustion.

My throat was parched. Glancing around, I realized there wasn't any water around and gave up.

Ashton grew upset seeing my reaction. He tucked me up in bed before closing the windows and set the heating to the warmest temperature available.

My flimsy pajamas were wet by now. He rummaged through my closet and helped me change before tucking me in.

Mrs. Eriksen arrived and asked softly, "Mr. Ashton, is she alright?"

Ashton ordered gloomily. "Bring her some warm water. Reheat the dinner."

Nodding, she walked out and left us alone.

I was lying in bed when he pulled back the covers.

Stunned, I grabbed his hand. "Ashton, you..."