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It was quite cool for Clarissa to have a female bodyguard with her.

She was finally permitted to go out, but there were not many occasions for her to leave.

Apart from going to the studio, she would look for Ellie.

However, shortly after, Mimi contacted Clarissa to ask for a meetup again.

They decided to meet nearby. As soon as Mimi saw Clarissa, she narrowed her eyes in dissatisfaction. Her cousin looked like she had gained weight and had been living well.

"Clarissa, you must have grown fat from pigging out on delicious food all day. Meanwhile, you made me stay in a run-down hostel where I had to squeeze with others and eat sub-par food. How can you be so selfish?" she complained.

On the contrary, the hostel that Mimi stayed in was not as bad as she described.

The majority of the residents were students that had to take their exams nearby. There were single rooms, double rooms and rooms that catered to more than two.

As students living together, they could talk to, rely on and learn from each other. It was the most suitable environment for Mimi.

Unfortunately, Mimi did not understand the intentions behind Matthew's arrangement. She assumed Clarissa deliberately talked behind her back, and it annoyed her to see her cousin living better than she was.

As Mimi took a seat, she noticed the short-haired woman beside Clarissa. That tan woman had an indifferent expression on her face and a sharp gaze. Frowning, she questioned, "Is she your friend?"

"It's none of your business. Did you call me out to complain about your accommodation? If you don't want to stay there, you can always move out and look for your own place. There is no loss to me since I am the one paying for your current hostel."

Hearing that, Mimi froze. She pouted and could not refute that point.

Instead, she vented her frustration by ordering a variety of food, especially those that were expensive. Clarissa could not be bothered to pick on her.

After some time, Mimi tried her luck and suggested, "Clare, why don't you let me stay with you? I promise I won't touch your things. The hostel isn't an ideal space for me to study as it isn't quiet."

"Haha...you actually study?" Clarissa mocked.

Feigning being hurt, Mimi protested, "Of course! I have to maintain my good grades."

Unfortunately, the act did not fool Clarissa. "If you are serious about studying, you can do it anywhere."

Mimi glanced at the woman opposite her in disappointment. She doesn't give in.

Refusing to give up, Mimi continued, "Whatever. You can continue living with that useless man, and I will not disturb you. Anyway, my classmates have registered for classes, and I plan to do so too. Teachers from the film academy started holding tuition classes outside of school, which will be very helpful for us."

"Go ahead and register for it. I'm not stopping you," Clarissa pointed out.

Cautiously, Mimi whined, "But I don't have enough money. It costs a few hundred per lesson, and my parents don't have the money to support me. Clare, can you pay for my classes? When I become successful and earn big bucks in future, I will be sure to repay you."

To her dismay, Clarissa took her request lightly and coldly responded, "If you can't afford it, you will have to rely on yourself. I am not obligated to cover both your accommodation and your school fees."

"You..."

Mimi was furious. She slammed her fork on the table and raged, "Clarissa, I'll pay you back once I start earning. Why are you so petty? You have a good income, yet you can't even lend me some money? What will your readers think of you? Are you disregarding your family member now?"

Clarissa scoffed, "Are you threatening me again?"

Immediately, Mimi kept quiet, while her eyes were still burning with anger.

Clarissa had dirt on Mimi, so the latter's threats posed no weight.

Besides, she was not familiar with D City. Therefore, she had to beg Clarissa if she wanted to stay here.

Changing her expression into a pleading one, she begged, "Clare, I'm begging you. I really need to attend this tuition class because it will greatly help with my exams. At the very least, I can write an IOU for it, okay?"

"Sure! You can write it now," Clarissa readily agreed.

Overjoyed, Mimi started to draft the IOU on the spot. As soon as she was done with it, she waited for Clarissa to pass her the money.

Unexpectedly, Clarissa began to interrogate her, "Where is your tuition class held? What is it called? I will personally pay the fees for you."

"It's okay! I don't want to bother you with it. I can pay the fees myself," Mimi quickly blurted.

However, Clarissa shot her a sharp look and snorted, "If I hand you the money, you may end up spending it elsewhere for all I know."

Mimi chuckled nervously, trying to hide her guilt. "Why would I do that?"

"Let me pay the fees then."

Mimi could not argue against that.

At first, she asked for more money so she could spend the excess. Now that Clarissa wanted to pay for her tuition fees at the centre, she would figure her underlying intentions.

Mimi could not help but worry.

After the meal, Clarissa drove Mimi straight to the tuition center. As she was nervous, Mimi could not sit still and started to poke around while she was in the car.

Suddenly, she exclaimed, "Clare, I know this car! It is a luxury car. Do you earn that much money to afford the car and a chauffeur too?"

More thoughts attacked her the longer she was in the car. Although she was jealous, she thought she could benefit more from having a cousin like Clarissa.

Anyhow, Clarissa did not answer Mimi's question.

When they reached the destination, there were students everywhere, and Mimi alighted in a very arrogant manner. Noticing the stares at the car and her, she smiled proudly.

She hurriedly hugged Clarissa's arm. Although the other party gave her a death glare, Mimi ignored it and pulled her into the building.

There, Clarissa asked about the course herself and did not hesitate to pay after registering for it.

As it was such a large sum of money, she could not mindlessly hand it over to Mimi.

Turning to her cousin, Clarissa reminded, "I have the IOU. When you have money in the future, I will not hold back to ask you for it."

Mimi replied, "Of course! Thank you, Clare. Let's go, why don't you send me home?"

Clarissa rejected her request.

After they left the center, Mimi watched Clarissa's car leave with a pout.

At that moment, someone greeted her from behind, "Mimi, have you paid for class?"

Mimi turned to see her bunkmate. Instantly, she changed her expression and smiled triumphantly.

"Yes, I just paid for a few classes in a go."

The girl asked, "Really? Who was the person who fetched you here?"

"She was Clare, my cousin."

In awe, the party continued to probe, "Your cousin? She is so pretty! Oh my gosh, she was driving a luxury car too. Is she rich?"

"Haha...she's well off. Oh, and she doesn't drive the car herself. She has a chauffeur who drives her around," Mimi boasted.

"Woah! If your cousin has so much money, why are you staying in the hostel with us then? Why aren't you staying with her?"

Momentarily, unhappiness flashed across Mimi's eyes. She quickly regained her composure and responded, "I have to get my act together for my exams. I came here together with my classmates, so how can I stay with my cousin by myself? Furthermore, the hostel isn't a bad environment, and I have company while staying there. I have people to talk to and study together. Meanwhile, my cousin is a busy woman. If I stayed with her, only her maid would be available to entertain me. Ah, let's not talk about it. Are you heading back to the hostel? Let's eat together. It's my treat!"

"Okay..." Her roommate replied.

Since Clarissa was already out of the house, she decided to head to Ellie's office to tell the latter that the police investigation was over.

"Who is the mastermind then? Are they still figuring it out?" Ellie huffed.

"They don't know at the moment, but the culprit will surely give himself away in time to come. I don't believe that a person who wants me dead can hide in the shadows for that long. Moreover, the more he wants me dead, the happier I have to live my life. It would make him furious to see me like that while in hiding."

Ellie nodded. "Though that makes sense, you should still be careful."

"Well, I'm not scared since I have Gina," Clarissa confidently stated.

Gina was Clarissa's chauffeur and bodyguard.

Glancing at the woman beside Clarissa, Ellie thought she seemed cool, serious and ruthless all at the same time.

I've discovered another new model!

Whipping out her camera, she enthusiastically pulled Gina aside and took some shots of her on the spot. After obtaining permission, Ellie displayed her photos in the shop and made her one of her models.

There was no need to worry about a clash in styles since Clarissa and Gina had differing styles.

Amused, Clarissa thought Ellie was born to be in the business industry.

In the evening, a plane landed in D City.

With a pair of sunglasses on her head, Shermaine, with a cold temperament, ignored her fans who were welcoming her at the airport. Without greeting them, she quickly got into the car to leave.

Within minutes, she turned to Lizzie, who came to pick her up, and declared, "Just cancel the movie I agreed to star in the last time."

"What? Shermaine, you have signed the contract. We will be breaching the contract by withdrawing your interest now. Furthermore, it is a good movie, why..."

"Just go ahead and terminate the contract. I don't want to shoot it, and I mean it. I will accept any shoots between New Year and Valentine's Day unless they are in D City. Do you understand? That's my request."

Lizzie felt helpless.

How can she progress in her career when she is this stubborn?

"Shermaine, do you want to advance your career?" she challenged.

"Shut up! I don't want to do it. Please get out of my sight now," Shermaine retorted.

Instantly, Lizzie's expression darkened. She felt like quitting too.

Unfortunately, the company requested for her to stay with Shermaine for the time being as a rich heiress like her was not reliable with her poor work etiquette.

Initially, she agreed to take Shermaine under her wing, convinced that it would help her career take off.

Yet, she did not imagine things to turn out this way.

Luckily, the company assigned another new artist to her too. Since Shermaine was not interested in her career anymore, she would not mind giving the job to the rookie.

"Alright, I understand. I will try my best to win jobs in D City for you. During this period, you should get more rest. I will inform the company about it, but I'm afraid you will have to explain it to the president yourself.

"Sure, I will do that."

Grouchy and upset, Shermaine headed straight to her room when she arrived home and called someone.

"What do you think you were doing? How can you be so stupid? What is the point of feeding you? You can't even settle a woman. Forget it. You can stop working for now. I will deal with this b*tch myself."

After the call, Shermaine squeezed her phone and gritted her teeth. "This dumb a**, damn..."

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Clarissa was scrolling through the internet when she realized that Shermaine made a Twitter post.

"Love is hard. How should I tell these people that no matter how great a man is, it makes no difference as he is taken."

Her post created waves within minutes.

Previously, Shermaine had announced that her wedding date was around the corner. Oddly, no news from her followed.

The netizens were speculating that she was referring to her boyfriend, a socialite who was a good match for her.

Shermaine had stayed silent for a long time. Then, she suddenly posted that line on Twitter. It did not take a genius to put two together that she had been cheated on.

Immediately, her Twitter account became the top trending search.

The Queen Lost the Battle to Her Boyfriend's Mistress...

After seeing the news, Clarissa felt perplexed.

For all she knows, Shermaine's post may be directed to Sienna instead of her. Even so, Clarissa was still troubled by it.

Matthew was clearly never Shermaine's boyfriend. She was the one who made it up and released it to the public. However, it worked because whenever people mentioned Shermaine, they would assume that Matthew was her boyfriend. Although she did not explicitly state that he was her boyfriend, the clues she left pointed towards him. Therefore, everyone was misled.

The scheme she cooked up did not necessarily disgust Sienna, but it did irk Clarissa.

Of course, she was upset. Despite so, she could not refute Shermaine's post on Twitter directly. Therefore, she sent it to Matthew.

Within seconds, Matthew video called her.

The moment Clarissa answered the call, she pouted. Looking at her puffed cheeks, Matthew smiled in amusement.

"Clare, I will warn Shermaine not to continue spreading rumors about me," he assured.

To his surprise, Clarissa frowned, "Who allowed you to contact her?"

"Alright, I won't contact her. I will get someone to take down her post instead," Matthew chuckled.

"Don't be silly. Do you have anything to do with that post?"

The Twitter post did not specifically mention Matthew's name, so he would have nothing to gain even if it got taken down.

Matthew pondered for a moment before he declared, "Okay, I know what to do."

"What is it?" Clarissa asked curiously.

Grinning, the man confidently stated, "It will definitely make you happy."

Following that, Matthew ended the call. Clarissa was still sullen, and she spent half the day dragging her feet up and down the stairs. She also strolled through the yard for a long time before she turned her phone on again.

She finally felt somewhat better after making several online purchases.

Without looking through Twitter again, Clarissa managed to calm herself down.

Unfortunately, her phone started to buzz with messages. It was from the group chat with Jeremy and the rest, and they were mentioning her repeatedly.

"Matt the mighty!"

"All hail Matt!"

"That's a man!"

"Please stay in line for the greatest Matt!"

After she scrolled through the pile of useless messages, she finally found the main point.

"Clarissa, Matt created a Twitter account. His first post was a slap in her face. You should take a look at it now! He definitely posted it for you."

Immediately, Clarissa opened her Twitter. She did not have to search Matthew's Twitter account as the news made it to the hot search list.

"The Queen Is Smacked Right back In The Face."

After Clarissa clicked on the headline, she found Matthew's Twitter account.

I would like to declare that I have never entered into an intimate relationship with anyone in showbiz. Therefore, I never had a girlfriend nor a fiancée from the industry. As our parents knew each other, we occasionally met, but we were never more than friends. Regarding the unfounded rumours earlier, please stop spreading them. If there are any more false news regarding it in the future, I will get my lawyer to deal with it.

It was a simple post, and he did not mention any names either. However, Matthew's post came after Shermaine's.

This was definitely the biggest diss of the year.

Twitter was buzzing with netizens' comments.

Despite Matthew's clarification, not everyone took his side. Many netizens did not have a good impression of people like Matthew. Therefore, they assumed he only posted the clarification to cut his ties with Shermaine because he was guilty of having a mistress. Since Shermaine always upheld a good image, she had many supporters.

In this situation, more people were speaking out for Shermaine while criticizing Matthew.

Regardless, some people managed to analyze the situation rationally. Matthew never admitted to dating Shermaine, while the latter had been tooting her own horn and bringing the president of Tyson Corporation into the picture.

There were also a small group of people who thought both parties were the problem instead. They questioned why he chose to clarify the situation at this particular time when he could have done so earlier or even later. It made them suspect that Matthew actually have a new girlfriend.

While most of the netizens supported the celebrity, some verified accounts showed support to the man.

Headed by Jeremy, several big names from D City, including Justin, started standing up for Matthew.

Justin was responsible for Shermaine's success, yet he pointed out that they knew Matthew and Shermaine for a long time, and they were sure that both parties had never dated.

Other big names in showbiz represented by Yaala also praised Matthew, with some even posting meaningful comments.

These posts confused the netizens.

Nobody in showbiz seemed to support Shermaine. Did they have a grudge against her? Otherwise, was Shermaine really putting up a show?

Some were doubtful, while others believed them. There was no end to the gossips.

Fortunately, no one mentioned Clarissa's name so far.

A portion of those who supported Matthew knew about his relationship with Clarissa, yet they did not mention it to protect her.

Reading the post, Clarissa felt a warm fuzzy feeling spreading all over her and was grateful to him.

He isn't some teenager, yet he acts so rashly.

While Matthew's post clarified his relationship with Shermaine, some had misunderstood him to be a scumbag.

Meanwhile, Clarissa did not reply to Matthew's message immediately. While at home, she felt happy but missed him at the same time.

On the other hand, Shermaine was shocked by how cruel Matthew was.

She knew who he was doing this for.

Biting her lips, she swore to take revenge.

No matter what, it was no use to go against Matthew. Therefore, she decided to target Clarissa.

Since the first time Shermaine laid her eyes on that woman, she hated her appearance, character, and skills. Now, she knew that they were fated to be enemies.

How dare she stole my man?

I don't even know when that b*tch even hooked up with Matt. Were there sparks between them when they met at the film studio for the first time? Did they take me as a fool since then?

How could I be so blind all this while?

Everything makes sense now. Matthew must be the one who handled the online attack on Clarissa. He probably got her the role in Justin's movie and her current studio too.

With just a pretty face, she managed to secure a promising career. If she did not have any outside help, how else could she achieve it?

Well, how will the Tysons react when they find out that a woman like her has hooked up with Matthew?

Furthermore, Clarissa is Ellie's classmate.

Chuckling to herself, Shermaine predicted that men would only play with someone like Clarissa.

Without hesitation, she picked up the phone and called Margaret.

Moments later, Clarissa received a call from the Tysons.

It was not Ellie nor Matthew, but Margaret.

Her tone was curt, and she did not make any small talk.

"I want you to come here now. Don't you dare tell Matthew about the call."

Her request made Clarissa's face turn pale. Obviously, Margaret found out about her relationship with Matthew.

"Miss, what's wrong? Are you heading out? Let me inform Sir."

Jenny wanted to call Matthew when she noticed that something was off about Clarissa as the latter rushed out of the house.

"No need for that. Jenny, I will be with Gina so it will be fine. We are going to take a walk, and I will be back soon," Clarissa quickly came up with an excuse.

Without explaining any further, she left Zen Highlands.

As Gina did not know about the issue with the Tysons, when she heard that Clarissa was heading to the Tyson residence, she did not question and went ahead to drive her there.

Clarissa's heartbeat raced as she walked into the Tyson residence. Nervous, she cautiously stepped in.

She only managed to take a few steps when a teacup landed beside her feet and shattered.

At that instant, she froze in fright. She looked up in horror, only to see Margaret's gaze filled with disgust, unlike her usual kind and tender look.

She snapped, "Clarissa, is this your goal? Ellie treats you as her best friend, while Yuliana and I have been good to you all this time. You are so young, yet you are shameless enough to seduce a man that is almost your uncle's age? How can you be this dirty-minded and shallow at such a young age? Do you think you can upgrade your status by doing that? That's impossible! The Tysons cannot accept a woman like you. You don't qualify and have no place in our family."

Clarissa could only silently listen to the scoldings.

Being in an embarrassing situation, her face was as pale as a sheet, and she did not dare move an inch.

"I want you to pack up your bags and leave Zen Highlands and D City right now. I never want to see you again, and don't you dare come to the Tyson residence anymore. Matthew already has a worthy fiancée, unlike a shallow and vain woman like you. Get out!"

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Clarissa did not leave immediately. Instead, she stood her ground and mustered up the courage to speak.

"Grandma..."

"I don't want to hear anything!" the older woman yelled.

That took Clarissa by surprise. She was hurt by Margaret's words and the look that she gave her.

Nonetheless, she was already prepared for a reaction like this when the Tysons find out about her relationship with Matthew.

She was only facing it slightly earlier than expected.

Although Clarissa knew it was wrong to talk back, she had to say her piece.

"Matthew and I are truly in love."

"Shut up!"

Clank! The older lady reached out to throw an item in Clarissa's direction, which narrowly missed the latter's head.

Should I be grateful that Old Mrs. Tyson didn't throw it at my head?

Margeret continued to make a racket. "You are so brazen! Why are you still here? Do you want money? How much do you need? Is half a million enough or maybe one million?"

"I don't want any money," Clarissa uttered.

"Then, leave this place right now."

Clarissa knew no matter what she said, Margaret would not hear it.

Although she felt terrible, she could only turn to leave.

"Wait..."

Abruptly, Margaret stopped her. Clarissa turned to see that a softer gaze from her. Looking at the young woman, Margaret offered, "This is a stack of cash for you. If you leave D City by today, I will not make things difficult for you. However, if you continue to remain stubborn, I will not sit back and do nothing. I may be old, but I am not senile. There are plenty of things up my sleeve. Hmm, isn't your grandma is around my age? If you don't leave, I will call her personally and complain about your upbringing."

Clarissa's expression darkened.

She could bear all the humiliation or scolding, but her grandmother was her only family, so there was no way Clarissa would let Margaret get her involved.

"That is my issue. Leave my grandma out of it."

Feeling victorious, Magaret challenged, "How is it only your issue? Your upbringing is questionable. Did no one tell you that it is wrong to steal things that don't belong to you? In this case, you wanted something that doesn't belong to you. Then, you secretly made it yours when it never belonged to you in the first place."

"Matthew is a person and not an object. How can I steal a person?" Clarissa was in disbelief.

Unfortunately, Margaret did not back down and continued, "Even if you did not steal, you tried to seduce him. We trusted you, but in contrast, you got closer to Ellie to benefit from our family."

"No, I am truly friends with Ellie."

"Well, what a shame. Who will believe you?" Margaret mocked.

She made Clarissa feel embarrassed and cornered.

"You are still young and beautiful. If you want to date, can't you find someone of your age? Why do you have to date Ellie's uncle? You say that both of you are in love. Is that even possible? Even if I believe you, a stranger will not. To put it bluntly, I'm sure you know the criticisms you will receive if others find out about the relationship."

Seeing Clarissa's eyes well up with tears, Margaret thought she looked pitiful.

Despite so, when she thought about how the younger woman had seduced her son and secretly living together, she grew angrier. She was upset to be deceived and wanted to give that woman two tight slaps.

Once a person believed that she had been deceived, she would think that the betrayer was better off dead.

Currently, Margaret felt that way. Thinking back, she was sure that her son rejected the girls she recommended to him because of Clarissa. Similarly, their relationship probably was the cause of his behavior towards Sienna, a kind and likable woman from a good background.

The more she pondered over it, her hatred for Clarissa became more obvious in her expression. There were seemingly more wrinkles on her face now.

She slammed the table forcefully and cruelly gestured towards the door. "Get out now."

Clarissa could not stay there any longer either. With tears streaming down her face, she turned to leave.

At that moment, the door opened.

Matthew scanned at the scene. Seeing his beloved woman crying, he immediately took her into his arms.

Lowering his head, he comforted, "Clare, don't cry anymore. I'm here."

Margaret was furious to see Matthew being so protective over Clarissa.

She shot Clarissa a death stare, but Matthew blocked her sight. With the woman in his arms, he headed out with her.

"Matthew, you better stop right there!" Margaret fumed.

Her son stopped in his tracks but turned around and sneered, "We shall talk after I return. She is not to be blamed for anything. I'm responsible for everything."

With that, he left with Clarissa.

Once they got into the car, Matthew immediately hugged Clarissa. Then, he bowed his head and planted a kiss on her forehead.

In a gentle and low voice, he whispered, "Clare, I'm sorry. This is my fault."

Clarissa shook her head while in his arms.

Although her eyes were filled with tears, she firmly stated, "If we have to place the blame on someone, then it is both of our faults. It isn't only just your problem because love is an affair between both parties."

Amusement flashed across Matthew's eyes. He cupped Clarissa's chin and kissed her.

"Clare, you should remain like that. No matter what they say, you should always stay by my side, okay?"

His tone made it sound more like pleading disguised as a threat.

As she looked into his eyes, she could not find any willpower to go against him.

"Okay," she confidently replied.

She did not want to be separated from him at this moment.

While Matthew nibbled on her lips, he whispered, "Good girl...I love you..."

When they returned to Zen Highlands, Clarissa was still affected by the earlier events. She did not have an appetite for dinner and did not seem well either.

Matthew did not like to see her in that state. He initiated sex, and soon after, they paid no attention to the earlier events. Spent, they fell asleep.

The next day, Matthew comforted Clarissa and ordered her not to accept any phone calls nor invites from the Tysons. If any of them came by, no one would be allowed to come into Zen Highlands.

After telling her what to do, he left.

In the meantime, the Tysons were waiting at home after they heard about Matthew's news. Since they were not busy that day, they started to discuss the issue.

Matthias was also anxiously waiting at home. He knew that this day would come. Last night, when he returned home, Margaret was livid, and she threw tantrums throughout the night. Even his wife, Yuliana, was cursing at Clarissa and showing her displeasure towards Matthew.

The most supportive person of the relationship was naturally Ellie since she did not mind having Clarissa as her aunt. She tried to put in good words for them but was shot down by the other two women.

As for Matthias and George, they seemed unaffected.

"Matthias, when Matthew come home, will you talk to him? He can marry whoever he wants, except for Clarissa." Margaret tried to persuade her elder son.

To her dismay, Matthias pointed out, "Mom, Dad already agreed for Matthew to decide who he is going to marry. Of course, it was always his decision, and as his elder brother, I don't have the right to step in. He is not a kid anymore and has the right to choose his wife. I'm sure he knows what he is doing."

Margaret sarcastically replied, "What do you mean? Although you put it very nicely, if he chooses to marry someone like Clarissa, our family will be the joke of the town."

"Mom, you are right. For instance, what would the Wynters, the Grandes and Mr. Reed think of us? There were so many other candidates, but Matthew decided to pick another young and pretty girl. What would people think of him and our family? As part of the family, how can I face the world to have a sister-in-law who is around the same age as my daughter?" Yuliana added.

She even rolled her eyes at her husband for not helping in the situation.

Feeling unjust for her friend, Ellie snorted, "Mom, isn't Shermaine around my age too? Sienna is also only two years older than me. You might as well come clean and complain about her background. You don't have to go in circles and find excuses to oppose the relationship."

"Ellie!" Yuliana roared in rage and embarrassment.

Her mother's outburst made Ellie moved closer to George.

"Grandpa is the head of the family. He hasn't even spoken, so why are all of you rushing to share your opinions? Let me remind all of you that Uncle Matt will never be at your mercy. If you provoke him, he might not come home and might even cut his ties with us," Ellie reminded.

Matthew's ties with them were not like the others. His relationship with his family was relatively weak.

Although Ellie's words were extreme, she did make them start to worry about her warning.

Margaret looked slightly defeated, and she could only grunt in annoyance. Coincidentally, Matthew returned.

Ignoring the intense stares from his family members, he casually sat down and lit up a cigarette. Sandwiched between his slender fingers, he took a puff before he coldly explained, "I was the one who pursued Clare. If I did not initiate it, do you think she would be mine?"

That was true!

Before she met Matthew, Clarissa could be described as a woman with a pure heart and little desire.

Regardless, to a mother, her son was never wrong.

Margaret was determined to pin the blame on Clarissa. To her, Clarissa was a vixen who ruined her son's ideal marriage.

"I don't care who started it. What happened must end now. Matthew, let me make things clear. I have to approve the wife you marry. Even if you don't choose Shermaine nor Sienna, your wife must not be Clarissa," she proclaimed.

Narrowing his eyes, Matthew took another puff from his cigarette. The atmosphere was tense.

Realizing that Matthias had not spoken, Yuliana nudged her husband.

For a long while, no one dared to speak.

Then, Matthew squeezed his cigarette and broke the silence, "I will marry Clarissa."

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He spoke domineeringly, leaving no room for discussion.

Triggered by his words, Margaret's heart rate shot up, and she clutched her chest while breathing heavily as though she was about to faint.

Yuliana quickly tried to console her by giving her water and appearing her. Then, she looked around and realized that no one else seemed anxious.

Even Ellie felt embarrassed for Margaret.

"Grandma, stop acting. The last time you were like that, we sent you to the hospital. However, the doctor said you were in the pink of health. Please stop your act."

"Rascal, what are you saying?" Yuliana chided her daughter.

Although Margaret may not be ill, at least they should pretend to care for the older lady since she was trying so hard to pretend that she was unwell.

Shaking, Margaret wagged her finger at her son.

"Matthew, do you want to be the reason for my death? Sure, go ahead and send me to my grave. Once I kick the bucket, no one will be in the way of your marriage with that s*ut. You are such an unfilial son!"

Matthew flicked off the cigarette ashes and took another puff. Then, he turned to look at his father.

"Dad, do you share mother's thoughts?"

George looked like someone had burst his bubble. Staring back at his son, he stammered, "Huh? What?"

"What are your thoughts about my decision to marry Clarissa?" Matthew asked again.

Instantly, George could feel the heat from his wife's stare.

Frowning, he shrugged. "I don't make decisions for every single thing in the household. You are already an adult, so why do you need my consent for anything?"

Of course, Margaret was unhappy to hear his reply.

"George!" she whined.

"Come on. Matthew is already thirty-six years old, not six nor sixteen. He has lived almost half his life. Why does he need your consent for the person he decides to marry?" George reasoned.

He rarely expressed his opinions.

But every time he did, Margaret had to listen to him.

Despite so, Matthew's marriage was one thing she would not give in to.

Once she heard his rebuttal, she snapped back, "I am his mom, and so long as I don't accept his decision, he cannot get married. Well, if she is that great, he can try to disown me."

Matthew frowned.

Squeezing out the cigarette in his hand, he uttered, "That's it. I'm leaving."

"What? Matthew, don't you dare..."

Despite Margaret's request, he already stood up and left the Tyson residence.

She did not hold him back. There were so many people in the house today, yet none of them was standing on her side, and it made her angrier.

"What is the meaning of that? That's it? Is he really set on marrying Clarissa? Does he want me dead? Huh?" Margaret complained hysterically.

Other than Yuliana, who tried to reassure her, the rest did not have that much patience.

George did not even bat an eyelid, while Matthias exasperatedly expressed, "Mom, Dad is right. Matthew is thirty-six years old. Besides, given his personality, do you think you can control him? You can't even handle him when he was young, much less now."

From a young age, Matthew was stubborn and always wanted to do things his way. No one could stop him.

For the things he wanted, he would do everything to get them,

Needless to say, he had not changed much. He managed to build up Tyson Corporation single-handedly and successfully expanded it into what it is today. Given his abilities and personality, who could control or stop him?

"Even so, don't you realise that Matthew's marriage will impact you in some way? Matthias, don't you think Sienna would suit him better? Why don't you persuade him?" Margaret tried her luck.

Matthias did not reply. Meanwhile, Ellie, who could not stand it any longer, step in to defend her Uncle Matthew. "Grandma, you are forcing Uncle Matt to marry a wife you like. What is the difference between that and an arranged marriage? He doesn't like Sienna, yet you want him to keep a woman like that around him for life. Isn't that a torture? That doesn't show your love for him. In contrast, it seems like you hate him so much to deny him of happiness."

"Nonsense!"

Margaret quickly retorted, "If Sienna is not his cup of tea, why don't he try others? I don't believe I can't find someone else he likes. No matter what, I will never approve of Clarissa."

"Why not?"

Ellie could not wrap her head around it. "Grandma, didn't you like her in the past?"

"I did because I thought she had no ill intentions. Who knew that she wanted to seduce Matthew all along?"

"Seduce? Grandma, you are so biased. Please take a good look at Uncle Matt. No matter how sly or flirtatious a woman is in front of him, he would not even look at them. He has high standards for women. How bad can his choice be?"

"I don't care. She is too young and did not grow up in a proper family. Didn't you say that her father died young while her mother remarried? She lives with her grandma, right?"

Ellie sighed. "Grandma, you dislike her family after all."

Stubbornly, Margaret explained, "Her upbringing is important. You don't understand how important it is to marry a family of the same status. Given the Tysons's reputation, if we allowed that marriage to take place, others would surely laugh at us."

"How you live your life is up to you, but you are afraid of being mocked? Grandma, I have to say that you're just being stubborn. You have said that Clare is strong and capable as she managed to support her family. You used to praise that she saying that she is smart. Although Clarissa is a good girl who even gets along with you, you are now rejecting her because of her family background? Furthermore, how can you say that she is from a bad family? Why is she not good enough when her family members are all clean?"

As Ellie could not get her point across, her tone seemed harsher this time.

Yuliana hurriedly shut her up. "Ellie! Keep quiet! Don't be so rude towards your elders. You have no say in this matter, and I haven't even talked about how you let that vixen into our family. In the future, I want you to cut all contact with that woman. Do you understand?"

Her daughter protested. "What is the basis for that? Clare is my best friend, and you have no power to make such an unreasonable demand!"

With that, she stormed out.

In view of the situation, Matthias sighed.

"Mom, I have something on, so I will make a move first."

Finally, only Margaret and Yuliana were left in the room, still disturbed by the issue.

No one in the family supported them. To them, Clarissa did not qualify to be part of their family.

The two shared the same thoughts. They did not think they were at fault, and naturally, they felt unhappy that no one else took their side.

In particular, it was tougher for Yuliana because she had to console Margaret while defending her daughter. After all, Ellie brought Clarissa over and kept her relationship with Matthew under wraps, deceiving everyone else in the family.

She could not provide an explanation to the Grandes.

At this stage, Yuliana was placed in the spot. There was a ball of fire in her heart that she had not shared with others about. Seeing that her husband did not seem to care much, she was even more frustrated and angrier than Margaret was.

"Yuliana, what should we do? I want to separate them, but with Matthew's support, Clarissa will definitely not leave. What else can we do?"

Yuliana frowned. "Mom, for now, they are still in their honeymoon phase. If we try to separate them now, Matthew will be against it. In addition, although he wants to marry her, it won't be anytime soon. We can afford to wait for a while, and perhaps, things may not work out for them once the passion between them dies out. After Matthew gets tired of her, he will look for a new target, and we will not even have to persuade him."

"That makes sense. However, we can't sit back like that. We have to find some dirt on Clarissa so that we can stop the marriage if Matthew does not change his mind in future."

"I understand. Anyway, you are still our mom. If you fervently reject it, Matthew can't stubbornly go through with the marriage either. Without his parent's acknowledgment, how can he get married? So, you don't have to worry."

As they discussed their long-term plans, Clarissa was at home feeling stifled.

Coincidentally, Hilary phoned her to ask her out. Without much thought, Clarissa agreed.

When she saw her mother, Clarissa felt somewhat resentful, and something came to her mind.

She was ridiculed and looked down upon, and now, she could not be together with Matthew. With so many things going on in her life, she could not share them with her family. She did not want to make her grandma worry while her mother, Hilary, was clueless about what was bothering her daughter.

Back then, Clarissa only had her grandma to rely on because of Hilary's selfishness. After so many years, she did not want to recall the hardships they had to face as she could not even fathom how they managed to get through it.

With that thought, Clarissa's gaze turned icy cold, but Hilary did not realize it.

"Clary, I asked you out for your help on something."

"What is it?" Clarissa did not sound friendly.

"I really like Shermaine. Could you ask around to see if any of your classmates know her? Could you let me meet her in person?"

Recently, Hilary had been anxiously collecting information about Shermaine every day.

Her family thought she was obsessed with the celebrity and was amused that she was still acting as a fan at her age. Despite so, only Hilary knew what she was up to.

Regardless, she could not let Zach find out. After she read about the news between Shermaine and Matthew, she saw how Shermaine seemed to be wronged. Her heart ached for the woman, and she stayed up all night thinking of Shermaine. She wanted to meet her, talk to her and show her affection.

Puzzled, Clarissa raised her eyebrow. "Mom, since when were you such a huge fan of Shermaine?"

"Haha..." Hilary laughed awkwardly. "Well, I like her. The other day, I read about how a scumbag abandoned her, and it made me feel for her. She is such a good girl, yet she met a man who did not know how to cherish her. I think he hooked up with some other woman who seduced him, and he wanted to protect his mistress. How can there be a person as shameless as that mistress?"

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow Chapter 190

Thud!

All of a sudden, Clarissa slammed the mug down with a gloomy expression, startling Hilary.

She immediately grumbled, "Clary, you almost scared me to death. You damned brat! What're you doing?"

Clarissa gave her mother a cold-eyed stare, and Hilary suddenly felt a little guilty.

"What...what's wrong with you?" Hilary stuttered.

Clarissa replied in an icy tone, "You don't understand anything and yet you're here giving your two cents. How do you know anything about it? You're not the one involved. And I don't think I can help you with that matter."

With that, she turned and left.

"Clary, what's the matter with you? I'm not done yet. Come back here." Hilary quickly fetched her bag and chased after Clarissa.

When she finally got hold of Clarissa at the door, she was suddenly shoved aside by Gina and lost her footing. "Ouch!"

Then, Gina went to stand in front of Clarissa and glared coldly at the woman on the ground.

"Don't worry, Gina. She is my mother," Clarissa clarified.

Hearing that, she stepped aside.

Clarissa then went forward and helped Hilary from the ground. Letting out a sigh, she asked, "Mom, are you okay?"

"Who is this girl? How could I be okay? Ouch..." Hilary stood up, holding her waist. Actually, it's not my waist that hurts. My buttock hurt too as I sat on it just now. And I can't massage them here in public.

Clearly exasperated, she shot daggers at Gina. "Who are you? How dare you assault me? Who do you think you are? No, I have to call the police. I must..."

Clarissa immediately stopped her mother. "Mom, stop. She's my friend. Just now she was just worried that you might harm me. It was a misunderstanding."

"Friend? What kind of friend is she? Why would I harm you? I'm your mother. You..." Hilary paused suddenly as she seemed to notice Gina and the car that was beside her. Good gracious, that car! And this girl doesn't look like her friend at all. She seems more like a bodyguard.

With a glint in her eyes, she looked fixedly at her daughter. "Clary, is that your car? Where do you get the money to buy such a car? Also, are you sure she's your friend? She looks like a bodyguard instead. Have you made a lot of money recently? Or are you..." she trailed off as an assumption formed in her mind.

However, Clarissa did not disclose the truth, nor did she want to tell her mother anything "What are you talking about? Since you have nothing else to talk with me, I'll go first."

"No, don't go. You are not going anywhere until you explain yourself." Pulling her arm stubbornly, Hilary refused to let her go.

Gina looked over and seemed to want to make a move, but Clarissa shook her head. Then, she turned to Hilary and heaved a sigh. "Mom, what do you want me to say? Do you want me to say that I've made a fortune?" "What kind of fortune? I don't think you can make any fortune throughout your life. You've got a boyfriend now, haven't you? Who is this man? I'm your mother, so you've got to tell me. If both of you get married in the future, I would be his mother-in-law. So, I have to run a background check for you. Even if you refuse to tell me, I'll send someone to check anyway. With the car plate number there, for sure I can find out the owner of the car"

Well, Mom is a lot smarter now, but I really don't want to tell her about it. Recently, I've been so annoyed by the Tysons, and I can foresee Mom's reaction if she knows about Matthew. I really don't want to deal with her now. Does she think that her daughter can marry into a wealthy family? I'm not even sure if I will be accepted by the Tysons.

Clarissa eventually became irritated and forcefully pried her hand away. "Mom, it's too late for you to care about me now. Where were you when I needed you then? However, you don't have to worry. I'll definitely notify you the day I get married. But other than that, you don't need to know anything more."

With that, she quickly walked away from Hilary and got into the car. So, Hilary hurriedly took out her cell phone to take a photograph of the car, but she was too slow. By the time she tapped on her phone, the car had sped away, leaving her a blurry photograph.

Sighing, she put away her phone disappointedly. Needless to say, the little brat still hates me for the things I did before. But who cares? Even if she bears a grudge against me, she can't change the fact that I'm her mother. Now that she has met a rich man, she wants to keep it from me? That's impossible.

With that thought in her mind, she hurried home and got Zach's subordinates to help her to find out the owner of the car in the blurry photograph.

I'm sure I can find the identity of Clarissa's boyfriend.

While over on the other side, Clarissa grimly went back to the Zen Highlands. I know that even though I didn't tell Mom just now, she'll eventually know the truth one day. But I'm fed up with all of these. If the Tysons already know about my presence, it doesn't hurt to have Mom knows about it too.

Leaning against the sofa, she hugged her knees and stared into space as she thought about various possible scenarios that could happen in the future.

For example, the Tysons coerce and bribe me, and I eventually succumb, take the money they've offered and leave Matthew. In the end, Matthew marries a wife who is a good match for him and they live happily ever after. Meanwhile, I return to my hometown, but Matthew takes revenge on me, causing me to become destitute and impoverished. Thus, I live miserably for the rest of my life.

Another scenario is the Tysons will pressure Matthew into leaving me. He would eventually give in and finally realizes that it's a mistake to be with me. We part ways. So, he returns his family, while I'm devastated and return to my hometown. In the end, I spend the rest of my life alone.

Or, Matthew decides to elope with me after the Tysons try to repress us. We flee to a remote area and lived in seclusion. A few years later, we have a child, but the Tysons come and take Matthew away while I take the child with me to go and find him in D City. However, Matthew loses his memory, and the Tysons take away the child. After I lose the child, I go mad. And twenty years after that, the child turns into an adult and finds me, his crazy mother.

Well, these possible scenarios can be named Fatal Attraction, Tragic Love of the Rich, or... My Mummy Dearest!

"What are you thinking about?"

Clarissa replied subconsciously, "My Mummy Dearest!"

"What?" Taken aback by the unexpected answer, he pinched her cheek lovingly. "My Mummy Dearest? You want to watch it?"

Snapping back from her daze, Clarissa's lips twitched at her thoughts just now. What on earth was I thinking? Those crazy scenarios ended up to be some cliché love story. It's funny to pair myself, the author of romance cliché novels, with such scenarios.

She grinned sheepishly and said, "Nope. I was just having random thoughts." However, if we really separate, I must write a novel about our love story, and I would make Matthew suffer in the novel.

"Huh? Random thoughts?" After seeing the gleam in her eyes, he smiled amusedly and pecked her on the lips. "Tell me about them. I want to know, too."

Clarissa smiled awkwardly and waved her hand. "There's nothing interesting with my thoughts. Instead, I'm more curious about yours. Would you mind sharing them with me?"

"Sure. For today, it's simple."

"What is it?"

Looking away with her red face, she pouted and kept silent. But Matthew went over and caught her lips again. This time it was not a mere peck, but a deep kiss.

He then brought her onto his lap, and the bulge under her hip made her so embarrassed that she did not even dare to move an inch.

After a long while, he finally let go of her luscious lips. He proceeded to plant light kisses along the curve of her neck and muttered huskily, "Clare, I really want to put you in my pocket and carry you with me everywhere I go."

Clarissa beamed at his words. Well, all of my thoughts just now were absolutely not true. This man can never break up with me.

At the thought of that, Clarissa gave him a squeeze. "Then, I'll go to your company frequently to see you whenever I have time. Mm, as long as you don't think of me as a nuisance."

"Really?" Matthew said surprisedly. I used to ask her to go, but she was always reluctant. Why does she so good today?

Grinning, she replied, "Yes. Now that your family knows that we're in a relationship, I don't have to hide anymore. So, is it okay if I have lunch with you on your working days?"

"Of course!" With that, he locked lips with her once again, using his passionate kiss to express his joy over her suggestion.

On the next day, Clarissa kept her words.

She prepared their lunch at home, brought it to his company, and ate with Matthew in his office on the top floor.

By the time she arrived, there were people in his office. He said that I could go into his office without giving him any notice.

So, as soon as she knocked on the door and entered the room, she met the eyes of several people.

Her face instantly flushed with embarrassment and froze at the door, unsure if she should step forward or retreat.

"You're here, Clare. Take a rest first. I'll be quick," Matthew said gently.

The staff gaped at the tenderness of their president's expression and tone of voice.

Clarissa quickly put down the lunch box and turned to sit down with her back facing them. Lowering her head, she kept herself busy with her phone.

After a few minutes, Matthew finished the discussion with his staff and dismissed them. They were completely dumbfounded. They finally snapped out of the brief surprise after they were out of Matthew's office. Did a pretty lady go into the president's office just now?

Meanwhile, in the office, Clarissa was swooped into his arms at once and smooched by him. Whenever we meet, the first thing he'll always do is kiss me. I'm used to it.

After the kiss, Clarissa couldn't help asking, "You're doing this on purpose, aren't you? Why did I not see anyone when I was here before?" This can't be a coincidence.

Matthew smiled and stroked her cheek. "Are you scared? Didn't you say you have nothing to hide? Previously, I knew that you were afraid to be seen by others, so I would send my employees away before you came."

How could he not know about my concern? Otherwise, with my frequent visits to his company, how could it be possible that no other employee had met me previously? All along, it was Matthew who steered people away to allay my concerns. This man, in fact, is very considerate and thoughtful.

Feeling touched, Clarissa flashed him a smile and took the initiative to kiss his lips. "Okay. Uncle Matthew is the best."

"Uh-huh. What else?" Matthew gazed at her with his gleaming eyes, seemingly wanted more from her.

She chuckled and replied, "I love you. Are you happy now?"