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Chapter 407

Despite knowing that Shermaine had interfered with the murder investigations to the extent of mediating the murder, they realized they were powerless to take action against her.

After Hilary was strangled to death, she never left the hotel because Zach had hidden her body.

Hence, the Hilary they saw in the security feed was actually Shermaine in disguise.

However, she refused to admit to it. All she told the police was that she dirtied her clothes in the washroom and changed into a new set she bought...

Consequently, she had no knowledge of Zach killing Hilary.

Although it usually wasn't difficult to find evidence, Shermaine's methods were so meticulous that she covered her tracks very well.

For example, she changed her clothes to create the impression that Hilary had left the hotel.

More importantly, she had gotten in contact with Zach. No one knew how they found each other, or what had transpired in between them.

Shawn speculated that Shermaine might have proposed Hilary's murder to Zach and instructed him what to do. The plan included how to make it look like suicide, such that Clarissa would be dragged into the controversy. Furthermore, Zach had much to gain from Hilary's death.

However, Zach never mentioned Shermaine and insisted everything was his idea.

More importantly, Zach was the one who committed the murder.

Gritting her teeth in indignance, Ellie felt powerless to do anything.

"That despicable woman. She had better stay out of trouble. If she does anything again, I will never let her go."

Shawn raised his eyebrow in surprise.

When her seething gaze suddenly met with Shawn's, she frowned at once.

"What is it? Why are you looking at me like that? Is there a problem?"

A slight smile broke out on Shawn's stern face. Although it wasn't obvious, Ellie recognized it because of how well she knew him.

When Shawn drove slowly away, he remarked, "Don't swear."

Ellie snorted. "Damn that, f*ck..."

The moment she did, Shawn jammed on the brakes.

Unbuckling his safety belt in a flash, he pulled Ellie toward him. Holding her down, he kissed her passionately. Despite struggling vehemently, Ellie was unable to free herself from the kiss.

Ever since the both of them became a couple, Ellie had never gotten her way with Shawn.

When Shawn finally released her, her lips were swollen red. However, she insisted on resisting but ended up being pinned down again.

Throughout her life, Ellie had always been a headstrong girl. However, she would be put in her place when she was with Shawn.

Oblivious to Ellie's resentment of Shermaine, Clarissa felt relieved that Hilary's murder was solved.

Now that the murderer was found, her name was cleared. That was all that mattered.

As for the police, they would announce the results of the investigations given that it was a matter of public interest.

When the news was made public, many realized that Clarissa had been wrongly accused. Nevertheless, there was still a group of people who felt she was guilty.

It didn't mean that Clarissa was innocent just because she didn't kill Hilary.

The crux of the issue was the animosity between Clarissa and Hilary. Given that Hilary was Clarissa's mother, they felt that she had the moral high ground. Hence, Clarissa was seen to be an unfilial daughter.

Therefore, she was still responsible for Hilary's death.

After all, she refused to help her mother escape domestic violence.

Moreover, now that her mother was dead, Clarissa went on a holiday instead of staying behind to mourn her. Everyone felt that she was heartless to do so.

If Hilary had Clarissa's assistance, she wouldn't have died. After all, Clarissa is the influential Mrs. Tyson.

Gradually, the accusations grew louder to detriment of Clarissa's reputation. Many famous influencers accused her of being unfilial and morally bankrupt.

However, neither Clarissa nor Tyson Corporation responded to the backlash.

Consequently, the netizens were frustrated by the lack of answers to their speculation.

After all, they enjoyed gossiping and Clarissa's controversy made excellent fodder.

However, when the person in question ignored them, it felt as if they had an itch that they could never scratch.

When they tried to dig further into Clarissa's past, including trawling for insider information, they failed to make much headway.

Clarissa and Matthew had stonewalled them. Regardless of how ugly the insults became, they didn't respond in any way. After all, their legal team was ready to take action anytime.

Some accused them of being ashamed while others thought that they weren't bothered.

Nevertheless, significant damage had been done to their reputation.

Previously, Matthias had raised the issue with Matthew, but Matthew didn't seem to mind.

However, Matthias and Yuliana personally dropped by this time.

Clarissa's controversy wasn't the only reason for their visit. More importantly, they had heard that she was pregnant.

Meanwhile, Matthew had largely recovered from his couvade. Hence, he didn't bar Matthias and Yuliana from coming.

However, he received them alone as Clarissa was resting.

"Matthew, why have you... lost so much weight? Did you get enough rest?"

The amount of weight Matthew lost was significant. Did something happen to him?

Matthew shook his head. "It's nothing. What brings both of you here today?"

Looking frosty as usual, he held a glass of water in his hand as he couldn't eat or drink anything else. His condition was no different from that of Clarissa's morning sickness.

Despite having slimmed down, his eyes didn't lose their sharpness at all.

Faced with his icy stare, Yuliana's heart skipped a beat. She averted her gaze and dared not say a word.

Hence, she left it to Matthias to broach the topic.

"We're here about the negative press from Clarissa's controversy. We know her mother isn't an angel. But, the public doesn't care as they always favor the dead. Hence, I suggest Clarissa and yourself do something to improve your image. After all, it's for your own good."

"Does her death wash away her sins?"

Matthias was stumped by Matthew's retort.

"Sigh... of course not. But why do you want to ruin your own reputation over her?"

"It doesn't matter to me."

"You..."

Realizing that he was unable to convince Matthew, he pondered a moment before changing the topic.

"Is Clarissa pregnant again?"

Matthew responded with a grunt.

"Mmm-hmm."

"That's great! Congratulations, Matthew. This is wonderful news indeed. How long has it been?"

"Not too long."

"She has to take good care of herself. Yuliana knows some good doctors and nutritionists whom she can introduce to Clarissa..."

Matthias appeared to be sincere in his concern.

However, as the conversation progressed, they returned to Damian's DNA test.

Matthias asked imprudently, "Matthew, didn't you ask Clarissa about Damian?"

Reading between the lines, Matthias wanted to know who Damian's father was.

The moment he asked, Matthew responded with a cold and heartless glare.

"Let me say this one last time. Damian is my son. My biological son. Do you think I can't even tell who my own son is? If you can be convinced by a piece of paper, it only shows how biased you are against her. Going forward, you are not welcomed at Zen Highlands. Just call me if there's anything instead."

Infuriated, Matthew bluntly showed them to the door.

Yuliana had expected something of this sort to happen. Despite feeling upset, she wasn't surprised at all.

Obviously humiliated, Matthias stared at Matthew with his eyebrows furrowed.

Neither of them said a word. However, after giving it some thought, Matthias suspected that something was amiss.

After all, they felt Damian resembled Matthew the first they saw him.

At that time, no one doubted that he was Matthew's son. Hence, Matthew's conviction caused his belief to waver.

"Alright. I understand."

Heaving a sigh, Matthias left with Yuliana. During their entire visit, they didn't manage to catch a glimpse of Clarissa and Damian.

The moment they left, Clarissa came downstairs.

Matthew hurried to hold her hand and settle her onto the sofa. He asked softly, "Did you overhear it?"

"Mmm-hmm."

"Are you angry?" Matthew asked with a comforting tone as he gently stroked her stomach.

Clarissa laughed gently. "I'm not. They are free to think whatever they want."

Breaking into a grin, Matthew gently kissed her head. "That's the way, Clare."

Clarissa smiled in response. Suddenly, she turned around to face Matthew. "I haven't washed my hair in two days. Don't you feel disgusted kissing it?"

Matthew's expression froze. However, he noticed that he didn't have any strong reactions to it.

Chuckling affectionately, he gently pinched Clarissa's smiling cheeks.

"Are you teasing me on purpose?"

"Oh? Have you recovered?"

"More or less."

Matthew realized how significant the psychological effect was. Now that Clarissa's morning sickness was gone and her body was getting stronger, his stress levels decreased accordingly. Hence, his condition improved alongside it.

Although couvade was a terrible and painful experience for him, Matthew was heartened that he could share Clarissa's burden with her.

If it was possible, he would be willing to give birth on her behalf.

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow Chapter 408

Three months later, Clarissa and Matthew were doing great.

They had stopped puking. Instead, they ate well and slept well. Matthew's couvade was also gone. Therefore, he had put on weight and recovered the shine on his face.

Both of them were happy and so was Damian.

After all, since his sister no longer tormented his parents, he finally dared to touch Clarissa's stomach.

In fact, he would do so before and after school. Whenever he touched it, he could feel her growing gradually in Clarissa's tummy.

Soon, Clarissa's bump began to expand.

"Mommy, when will my sister be out? I have prepared a lot of presents for her."

At school, Damian had made many handicrafts and drawings. He had wanted to present all of them to his sister.

Unfortunately, he had asked the question one too many times.

"You will have to wait for the new year. Your sister will be out then."

"That's still a long time away..."

After counting with his fingers, Damian went to strike off the dates on the calendar. He would repeat the gesture every day in anticipation of his sister's arrival.

Meanwhile, Catherine had arrived in D City. Given that the weather was getting warmer, Clarissa wanted her to stay longer. In fact, she even hoped that Catherine could stay permanently.

After all, she was getting old and Clarissa was worried about her returning to her hometown alone. Furthermore, she was concerned that the reporters would hound her once in a while.

As some time had passed since Hilary's murder, the controversy that ensued gradually died down.

Every day, the netizens turned their focus onto patriotic events and celebrity relationships.

Separately, Shermaine's career in showbiz had taken flight. Not only did she reinvent herself as someone who had turned over a new leaf, but she had also ventured into the business industry. Other than acting, she was rumored to have taken over her father's business. Moreover, she planned to expand into the entertainment industry by both investment and acting. By doing so, she would make another attempt at achieving greatness.

Just when Shermaine's fortune was on the rise, she would undoubtedly be compared to Clarissa.

Many netizens were undecided on who was more successful given the myriad of opinions out there.

Although Clarissa didn't care for it, Shermaine did.

Clarissa's focus was now on the baby and the progress of her movie.

As Justin had taken complete control over the production of the movie, Clarissa sent a representative to sign a new contract with him. She wanted to act professional and be fair to him by at least ensuring he wouldn't make a loss.

Nevertheless, they still got a good deal as having Justin direct a romantic movie was still considered overkill.

From the netizens' perspective, it would lower Justin's legendary status. At the same time, many others were looking forward to seeing what Justin could do with an innocent love story.

Compared to Clarissa, Justin's popularity hyped the movie up even further. Many more were interested to see a romantic movie directed by Justin. Therefore, the change of directors garnered a lot of goodwill on behalf of the movie.

When Yael went to Zen Highlands to see Clarissa, she couldn't help but praise the perfect timing of her pregnancy.

"Think about it, if not for the child, you would still be directing the movie and it wouldn't have generated the buzz it currently enjoys. Even though Ryler is in it, it still wasn't enough. But with Director Yates taking over, the movie's stature has automatically been elevated. This is a pleasant surprise indeed!" Yael exclaimed bluntly.

Clarissa squirmed her lips. "Yael, are you saying that you weren't confident in me directing the movie in the first place? Why did you agree then? Aren't you worried that the studio would make a loss?"

Bursting into laughter, Yael responded candidly.

"To be honest, I wasn't optimistic about your directorial skills. But, we wouldn't end up making a loss as you are still highly popular. Given that this is your love story with Mr. Tyson, I'm sure we could make a decent profit still."

"Haha…"

Clarissa responded with a sarcastic laugh so that Yael would reflect on her comments.

Coincidentally, Damian had finished school and Matthew was carrying him in. His face lit up the moment he saw Yael.

"Ms. Fleming, it's been a long while. I have missed you."

"Oh, what a sweet talker you are! You're certainly better at it than your mom."

Pretending not to get the joke, Damian walked up to Clarissa and stroked her stomach. "Hi there, it's your brother here. Once I'm done with dinner, I'll tell you a story. Today, I learned a new one."

Yael's eyes sparkled as she watched Damian.

After Matthew brought Damian upstairs to change, Yael suddenly remarked, "Given the qualities your son has and the resources at your disposal, we should get him into showbiz. Adorable kids are all the rage now. Give Damian a chance! I'm sure the entire nation will love him. When he grows older, he will become a hunk..."

"Stop! Yael, since when did you become a scout?"

"Not me. The studio has plans for expansion. I'm sure we're able to groom a couple of celebrities. What do you think? Sign your son up, and he will definitely be a crowd favorite."

"No. Why don't you ask Matthew?"

Yael was stumped. "Forget it. Take it that I never asked."

However, it's still a waste of talent for him not to join showbiz. Once he is revealed to the public, his popularity will definitely soar.

Yael lamented the lost opportunity. Right before she left, she even shot Damian another reluctant glance.

When Matthew saw the look in Yael's eyes, he realized something was amiss.

"What is she up to?"

Clarissa laughed. "Nothing much. She just wants Damian to be her first signing."

"As a celebrity?"

"I'm not really sure, but that seems to be what she has in mind. The company seems to be expanding under her leadership. As the boss, I do feel bad over it. Given that I have a bigger stake in the company than her, should I give her some of my shares?"

"This is what you have agreed in the beginning and has nothing to do with the amount of effort she put in. You can take note of her contributions and reward her in the future, but she is just doing her job. If she is unhappy, she would broach the topic with you directly. Now that she didn't, there's no need for you to bring it up."

"Alright... in that case, why don't I drop by the set tomorrow to check on them?"

Despite Clarissa's quick change of topic, Matthew didn't fall for it.

Raising his eyebrows, he tried to hold back his smile.

Clarissa couldn't help but feel self-conscious. Nevertheless, she still spoke her mind.

"As a director, I feel irresponsible for leaving halfway. Wouldn't it be too much if I didn't drop by until the movie is finished? If you're worried about my body, the doctor has given me a clean bill of health. Besides, all I'm going to do there is look around and chat them up. Not like I'm doing anything dangerous."

"But, the reporters may spot you."

"No, they won't. Now that the controversy has died down, the reporters are no longer that aggressive. Do you mean to say that I should never go out because I need to avoid them forever?"

Matthew pinched his nose. "You really have tons of excuses."

"So, is that a yes?"

"Fine. You can go, but wait for a day when I'm free."

"You're interested in going?"

Matthew smiled. "Shouldn't I check on the present you've given me? Besides, as one of the investors, it's my prerogative to be there. Furthermore, it would demonstrate how much importance I place on the movie."

Clarissa was speechless.

Finally, she mumbled, "You have just as many excuses as I do."

Matthew laughed in response. "Those aren't excuses. They are valid reasons. Don't they make sense?"

"Yea, yea. The president is always right."

"Mmm-hmm. As the president's wife, listening to me is the best decision you can make."

Just when Clarissa made a face at Matthew, he pulled her closer to kiss her. After all, she wasn't going to submit.

Matthew was a man of his word. After taking some time off, he accompanied Clarissa to the set.

Since Justin was informed ahead of time, he briefed his crew to keep their visit a secret. By the time they arrived, there was not a reporter in sight.

The crew missed Clarissa a lot as they had not seen her for a long time.

Roxanne especially missed her. The moment she saw Clarissa, she looked as if she was about to cry. Given her righteous character, she was filled with indignance when Clarissa was unfairly ridiculed online. She felt so angry that she burst out into tears.

When he saw her crying, Ryler came to stop her.

"Roxanne, your idol is doing fine. What are you crying for?"

Smirking, Roxanne averted her gaze, ignoring him on purpose.

"Clarissa, I have missed you. Also, know that I will always support you. Even if the whole world doesn't believe you, I will still do so. You shouldn't feel sad. Those people will know they are wrong sooner or later. Everyone knows that you're a kind person."

Warmed by her words, Clarissa hugged Roxanne.

"Silly gal. I'm not sad. I won't waste my emotions on people who are not important to me. You should do the same."

"Mmm-hmm. Whatever you say, Clarissa."

Ryler couldn't help but add, "Why do you obey everything Clarissa says while refusing to listen to me?"

Roxanne continued to ignore her as she helped Clarissa along.

"Clarissa, Director Yates is busy filming other scenes. So, let me show you around. Also, there are a few places in the script where I'm not really sure what emotions I should portray. Hence, I would like you to explain them to me."

"Ѕиге..."

As Clarissa and Roxanne walked away, Ryler felt as if he was invisible.

Smiling helplessly, he figured he must have offended Roxanne somehow.