

Standing before Love Chapter 242

“I heard that their family is going back to Bradford City for their future development. Even though this family cannot be compared to the Hart Family, only few other families in Bradford City are at their level. Your father is very disappointed in us now. On the Stark Family’s side, we can’t count on him right now. Right now, we can only wait for you to charm the other family, so that your father regains his confidence in you. This is the only opportunity to completely change our fate. Do you understand, Kris?”

Myra stopped walking and signaled at the frontdesk to stay quiet. The few employees quickly nodded and continued with their work after sitting down.

The two people who hid behind the trees were none other than Rachel and Kris. However, Kris still felt resentful after hearing Rachel’s words. “Mom, how do you know that he doesn’t like me at all? Fine, if that’s really the case, it’s only for the moment. What about some time later? He will eventually get tired of Myra, that b*tch! When that happens, he will fall for me!”

As she reached the end of her sentence, Kris became slightly agitated.

“Be quieter! Are you planning to let everyone hear you?” Rachel quickly reminded her in a low voice. “You’re still not giving up on him! Who do you think sent the doctor when I suffered the miscarriage last time? It’s Tony Hart! If it weren’t for him, we wouldn’t have landed in that situation at all. Kris, he is so ruthless to you, so why are you still thinking of him? Fine, even if you still like him, you need to have enough reason for that. Why should the Hart Family accept you just like that? Are you like Myra, who has the stocks of the Stark Group, 50% of Ritz Carlton shares, and the properties from Hillville?”

“But Mom, Myra didn’t get those with her own capabilities!” Kris retaliated.

“Yes, you are right. Nevertheless, she has them, not you! This is the major difference between the both of you!” As Rachel spoke, she gradually became less patient. “Let me warn you, Kris, if you don’t want us to be chased away by Myra in the end, you have to listen to me carefully. Make the man fall for you and when you get everything using his powers, you can have anything you want! After that, it’s time for Tony to dump Myra and you can be with him like you always wanted!”

With that, there was a moment of silence between them.

Myra scooted closer to them with narrowed eyes.

Soon, Kris' voice rang. "Alright, I'll listen to you. The men from the Walton Family aren't too bad either. Since he loves me so much, I shall play along with him!"

"Now, this is my clever daughter..."

Upon hearing the end of their conversation, Myra quickly walked past them nonchalantly, leaving the hall to await guests. She was headed toward the elevator in front of her.

Soon, Rachel and Kris walked out of the guest area. Upon seeing Myra, who was walking in front of them, Rachel's expression darkened as she pulled Kris back. "Be careful of Myra and avoid running into her. Kris, it's because of your inability to tolerate that you keep losing to her."

Kris's face darkened. Thinking back about all the misfortunes she had suffered because of Myra to the point where she was chased out of the Stark Family by Cameron, a surge of hatred bubbled within her. It's all because of Myra!

"Don't worry, Mom. I will take your advice this time. I won't let Myra have any chance to attack us again!" With that, she gritted her teeth.

Myra walked to the elevator and pressed the button to head to higher levels. The elevator soon stopped on the first floor. After it opened, she walked into it with a frown on her face.

From Rachel and Kris' conversation earlier, it's clear that Kris has changed her target—she's planning to be with another man. Walton Family... Are they referring to the Walton Family I'm thinking of?

After she entered the elevator, just as its doors were about to close, someone had pressed the button outside to enter. Looking at Myra in the elevator, Kris snorted coldly as she walked directly into the elevator and stood right in front of her.

As it was no longer early, only the both of them were in the elevator.

As the elevator door closed, the elevator rose slightly. Kris initiated the conversation coldly. "Myra, I know that you were secretly listening to our

conversation just now. Only you would do such a sneaky thing. So, did you hear any secrets? Do you want me to break it down for you?"

Even though Myra's actions earlier were discovered, she did not feel embarrassed. After all, there was nothing to be embarrassed about when she was facing both Rachel and Kris. Hence, Myra merely replied indifferently, "Nah, but does your old lover know that you have a new boyfriend now?"

Kris' expression changed immediately as her eyes narrowed. "Don't think that you can threaten me with such things. In my relationships, I'm always the one making decisions. If you want to, go ahead and tell him that I'm into another man!"

"Why would I tell him?" Myra merely looked at the woman in front of her coldly. It's her business if she wants to be a b*tch. After doing so many evil deeds, she's bound to meet her retribution one day. Perhaps she didn't realize this, but her little tricks have made her situation worse and made mine better every time. Of course, she would not tell Kris this.

The elevator had arrived on Kris' floor. After she exited, Myra still remained in the elevator. This was because she had moved to a different floor after she became the general manager.

Kris had already known that Myra was posted to a different floor and she hated Myra even more for that. One day, I'll crush her arrogance and indifference!

As soon as Tony returned to the Hart Group, Leo walked into his office immediately. "Director Hart, the front desk reported that Miss Walton has been waiting for you downstairs."

"Reject her." Tony took off his business suit and sat on the chair immediately. After loosening his tie, he raised his head to look at Leo. "Is Lyla here?"

"Yes, she's been here for a while." Leo looked slightly hesitant. When Lyla arrived, she was stopped on the ground floor of Hart Group, but she called him and informed that it was Tony who called her here. As Leo did not have the confirmation from his boss, he asked her to wait downstairs.

With an indifferent expression on his face, Tony spoke in a cold voice, "Ask her to come here."

Leo nodded before he walked out of the room.

On the ground floor, Gemma pulled a long face.

She had already arrived at the Hart Group. Apart from being stopped by the employees downstairs, she also did not receive the VIP treatment that she expected.

Leo had told her that Tony was not in Hart Group at that moment, but when she requested to wait for him upstairs, he apologized that no one had the authority to allow anyone to go upstairs without Tony's approval.

She was one of her brother's ex-girlfriends. She's here to look for Tony too? As Lyla had not noticed her, she heard Lyla making a call to Leo, saying that Tony had asked to meet him here.

How is that possible?

"Lyla, I think you better be more careful. Why don't you take a look at yourself? Do you think you can climb into any man's bed as you like? Don't offend the people whom you can't afford to handle. Otherwise, you won't even know how you are killed!"

With narrowed eyes and a ruthless expression on her beautiful face, Gemma looked at the woman who was also waiting in the guest area.

Lyla knew that the siblings from the Walton Family were up to no good. Until now, she still remembered the way Gemma treated the women who tried to seduce Tony. Hence, she did not dare to express her love for him in the past. Yet, she ran into Gemma on this fateful day!

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If Gemma came to Bradford City, does this mean that man is also here?

Lyla's hand gave a strong jerk and the coffee cup in her hand almost crashed onto the table. The hot coffee splashed on the back of her hand, but she did not dare to make a sound.

"What's wrong? Are you finally remembering my brother now?" When Lyla was together with her brother, Gemma had openly expressed her dissatisfaction toward the former. Obviously, she is just a b*tch who wants to

use him to elevate her status. Sure enough, after leaving Gideon, she came to Bradford City to seduce Tony. No wonder I didn't hear from her when I was in the States for so long. It turns out that she has returned to Bradford City.

Gemma remembered the woman who dared to sit in Tony's car on the first night. After thinking that many women had their eyes on Tony, the fury within her had no other outlet, so she merely glared at Lyla fiercely. "Don't worry; my brother has not returned to Bradford City yet, but he's going to be back soon." She chuckled coldly. "Lyla, you seeked for another man behind his back. What do you think he will do?"

Lyla had no idea about this. However, she recalled the phone call from Gideon a while ago. He's also returning to Bradford City soon. If he knows that I'm already married to Sean, what will he do?

The people from the Walton Family are nuts! According to normal social conventions, I've already broken up with Gideon but to him, even if he doesn't want me anymore, I'm forbidden to be with another man!

Thinking back to the reason she came to seek Tony out today, Lyla clenched her fists tightly.

She had no way out anymore. At this moment, she could only ask for Tony's help.

Even though Gemma had been provoking her, she stayed quiet all this while. After a while of this, Gemma had finally vented all her anger. Seeing that Lyla had no intention to reply to her, Gemma could not be bothered with Lyla any longer.

Soon, the phone of the front desk rang. The employee picked it up, and she kept nodding and saying 'okay' with a respectful and gentle expression on her face. After hanging up, she walked to the both of them.

Gemma's eyes lit up immediately. "Tony... Director Hart has returned?"

The front desk employee nodded and spoke to both of them politely. "Director Hart is back, but..." Under Gemma's expectant look, the employee turned to Lyla. "Miss Fisher, Mr. Clark said that he's waiting for you upstairs."

The front desk employee was no stranger to Lyla, so there was a hint of disdain in her eyes when she looked at her. Nevertheless, she continued to be respectful to her.

Lyla was in no mood to bother about that. After hearing what the front desk employee said, she immediately stood up and rushed to the elevator. However, when she got up, Gemma pulled her back with a huge force and grabbed her wrist tightly. With a dark expression, she asked, "Are you sure that Director Hart asked for her and not me?"

The front desk employee was shocked to see this, but she nodded and replied after a pause, "Yes."

Smack!

Gemma suddenly slapped Lyla hard on the face.

Taken aback, Lyla turned around and looked at Gemma incredulously after being slapped. "What the hell are you doing?"

"I'm teaching you how to recognize your own status!" Gemma glared at Lyla fixedly, obviously thinking that the latter was the woman who seduced Tony.

Perhaps the woman in his car yesterday was her!

"Lyla, if you dare to go upstairs to meet him, you know the consequences." A look of malice and warning was clear in Gemma's eyes.

Lyla's body trembled slightly; she knew that Gemma had misunderstood the relationship between herself and Tony. Even though she initially planned to tolerate Gemma's actions, she could not tolerate it anymore after the latter slapped her.

When Lyla was with Gideon, Gemma often bullied her and gave her a hard time.

She likes Tony too, but I already know the woman Tony loves at this moment! Seeing that Gemma can't even go to Tony's office right now, it's clear that he doesn't want to see her!

"Miss Walton, Director Hart doesn't like me so you don't have to waste your efforts to attack me. After his return to Bradford City, he already has a woman

he loves deeply and based on what I know, the woman is not you.” Seeing Gemma’s fury, a surge of satisfaction rose within Lyla. She knew Gemma’s character well—soon enough, Gemma would find out about Myra, and she would definitely not tolerate her. Of course, Tony would then give Gemma a hard time too.

“Excuse me, Miss Walton. Director Hart is waiting for me, so I shall not waste my time here.”

With that, Lyla walked directly to the elevator.

Gemma was so angry that her chest heaved up and down heavily. She did not expect a woman without any status and who only knew a little bit of piano to dare speak to her in such a tone.

Tony’s beloved woman?

I will find out who she is and make her regret staying with him!

After seeing Lyla getting into the elevator, Gemma followed behind her, wanting to enter the elevator with her as well. However, the front desk employee stopped her.

“I’m sorry, Miss Walton, but Director Hart did not ask for you.”

“Scram!” Gemma’s wild temperament was developed because she was spoiled by the Walton Family. It was already her limit to tolerate everything up to this point. She wanted to push the employee, but she was not aware that two bulky guards stood behind her at this point. Glaring at her in an unfriendly manner, one of them said, “Miss Walton, you are not welcomed here at the Hart Group. Please leave.”

Gemma felt embarrassed because of this. Seeing the elevator doors slowly closing, she hated Lyla and the other woman, whom she did not know yet. Then, she turned around and walked out of Hart Group in her high heels angrily.

As soon as she walked out of the building, she quickly called a number. Soon, the person on the other end of the line picked up the call. “Gideon, guess who I just saw?” Gemma muttered in a displeased tone.

After Lyla entered the elevator, she did not feel pleased that she had embarrassed Gemma this time.

She had not forgotten the reason she came here today.

She was already in despair when they were in the Ritz Carlton earlier. Unexpectedly, after she left the hotel, Tony sent her a message asking her to come to the Hart Group.

Does this mean that he's willing to talk to me?

However, Lyla did not expect things to be so simple.

Feeling nervous, she bit her lip when she recalled Gideon, the terrifying man.

Then, she walked out of the elevator. Before marrying Sean, she had come to Tony's office countless times and now, it was familiar yet unfamiliar to her at the same time.

After walking to Tony's office, Lyla knocked on the door. When she heard a cold voice asking her to enter, she walked into the room, feeling utterly exhausted.

After she entered Tony's office, she closed the door and walked over to him step by step. "Director Hart, you are finally willing to talk to me in private. Does this mean that you agree to help me with my current predicament?"

The office was shrouded in a thin layer of smoke at this moment. Sitting behind the office table, Tony had an indifferent expression on his face as he held a cigarette between his slender fingers. He took a deep puff before he slowly breathed out the smoke, his posture elegant yet domineering at the same time.

Even though his expression was impassive, Lyla felt a chill run down her spine. Looking at his handsome face that she had fallen in love with in the past, Lyla did not have any other feelings toward him at this moment.

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"President Hart..." Lyla clenched her fists that dangled on both sides of her body.

If I can go back in time, I won't be so stupid as to frame Myra when I knew that she was together with Tony in the beginning, and I certainly won't come to Tony's office to say those things. At the very least, I won't make my relationship with Tony to be so tense on the surface.

"Do you know why I decided to talk to you in the end, Miss Fisher?" Tony took his cigarette away with a cold expression as he looked at the woman in front of him.

Lyla's heart pumped faster but she forced herself to ask, "Why?"

"What I say are never empty words. When you targeted Myra the other day, you should have thought of what would happen today," Tony commented indifferently as he extinguished his cigarette.

Upon hearing that, Lyla's expression changed immediately.

"What do you mean, Director Hart?"

"Lyla, you can't even take care of Elsie, yet you still dream of having a stable position as Mrs. Chase?" His tone was calm as his fingers intertwined together. "If you are smart enough, you would never allow today's situation to happen."

Lyla clenched her fists tightly. "I don't understand what you mean, Director Hart. You must be worried if my position as Mrs. Chase isn't stable. After all, Myra has only divorced Sean not too long ago. If I go and divorce Sean now, can you really guarantee that nothing would ensue because of that?"

Tony's eyes narrowed as he stared her down quietly.

Lyla's back was drenched with sweat upon facing such a situation, so she took a deep breath. After a while, she saw Tony chuckling softly with a hint of mockery on his face. "Are you threatening me?"

"Of course I wouldn't dare to. I was merely breaking down the facts for you," Lyla replied in a hoarse voice.

Upon hearing that, Tony leaned back in his chair and lit another cigarette. Soon, the smoke slowly rose from the end of the cigarette.

“Do you know why is Elsie so smart? She did not look for Sean in the beginning. Instead, she went to his mother, Mrs. Chase, after her pregnancy stabilized,” Tony suddenly murmured in a calm tone.

Lyla knew about Elsie, the former employee of the Chase Group; she used to be in the same department as Myra. Of course, she was also with Sean for a while.

Why did Tony suddenly bring this up? Could it be that...

Her face turned pale. “It was you—”

“Indeed,” Tony said nonchalantly as he flicked his cigarette, making the ashes fall to the ground. “What Elsie did is just a punishment to you. I’ve told you not to provoke Myra.”

Lyla lost control of her footing and retreated a few steps. “Director Hart, by treating me like this, aren’t you afraid that I will tell Myra—”

“You met Gemma downstairs?” Tony interrupted her calmly.

His emotionless and piercing stare swept past Lyla, and the woman immediately shivered.

“Miss Fisher, I’m sure you don’t want to defend yourself against the Walton and the Hart Family at the same time.” Tony’s eyes narrowed. “This is your last time seeing me here. Don’t appear in front of me ever again.”

“Director Hart, I’m begging you; please help me...” Lyla shuddered after she returned to her senses and she took a few steps in Tony’s direction. “I can handle Elsie by myself but the Walton Family... Director Hart, I’m begging you! Please help me this time! As long as you tell Gideon that I’m on your side, he won’t touch me easily! Please, Director Hart; I beg you! I swear to God that I will never tell Myra anything as long as you agree to lend me a hand!”

Now that Gideon was involved, the trouble caused by Elsie was considered nothing at all.

As soon as Lyla remembered the man who resembled a demon, she could no longer keep her cool.

The relationship between her and the Chase Family was already quite tense at this moment. If Sean and Eve knew about her relationship with Gideon in the past, everything that she had said to them would be like a slap on her own face.

“What can you do if I don’t agree to help you?” Tony looked at the woman, who was on the verge of breaking down, with an amused expression on his face.

Lyla froze upon hearing that.

As for Elsie’s matter, if Tony could help, I would definitely be able to chase her away and solidify my position in the Chase Family. Even if Tony refuses to help and my life would be more difficult, I still have ways to stabilize myself. However, if he refuses to help me with the matters regarding the Walton Family...

However, Tony also said that if I dare to threaten him, he will simply play more tricks on me. If both the Walton and Hart Families come looking for trouble at the same time, and I can’t even handle the Chase Family...

Lyla’s face was as pale as a sheet. Biting her lip furiously, she asked, “You really don’t plan on helping me, Director Hart?”

“Even if you tell Myra, do you think she will believe you?” Tony’s lips twitched into a faint smile but his eyes still looked cold.

Upon hearing that, Lyla froze immediately.

He has a point. My relationship with Myra is at the worst point right now. If I tell her about the things that Tony did to her back then, would she believe me instead of Tony?

When the time comes, if Tony becomes really angry... Despair slowly flooded Lyla.

“Director Hart, you would not benefit if Sean and I were to get a divorce. Based on what I know, he still has feelings toward Myra but he hasn’t realized it yet. If Sean and I get divorced, he will definitely go looking for her again. I’m sure you don’t want this to happen, do you?”

Lyla had no other way out, so she thought of this rather surprising idea.

This time around, Tony took a deep puff from his cigarette. After a long silence, his sharp eyes finally glanced at Lyla coldly. "I'm not going to interfere with the matters between you and the Walton Family but if you agree to one condition, I will solidify your position in the Chase Family as Sean's wife."

Lyla's eyes lit up immediately and the pressure she had been feeling was finally relieved as she quickly nodded. "Of course; as long as you are willing to help, Director Hart!"

As long as he decides to help, I won't have too big a problem anymore.

When Lyla went downstairs, Gemma was already gone.

However, after thinking back on Tony's condition which she had agreed to, she bit her lip hard. A self-mocking smile lingered on her face as soon as she thought about Myra, the lucky woman.

Lyla used to think that she had defeated Myra. Unexpectedly, the latter had become a woman whom she could never reach. After all, Tony's love for her was much greater than Lyla's expectations. To be loved so deeply by Tony... Why would she want to think of Sean and let Tony go? Between the two of them, any other woman would definitely know who to choose!

So what if I tell Myra the things that Tony did to her in the past? It's useless!

Though reluctant, Lyla knew that she had no other way out at this point.

As soon as she walked out of the Hart Group, Lyla immediately stiffened.

Outside the Hart Group building, there was a square with a beautiful fountain located in the middle. At that moment, a car that Lyla was very familiar with was parked right next to it.

The person in the car seemed to have seen her so he rolled down the windows, revealing his handsome yet indifferent face—it was none other than Sean Chase.

Lyla slowly walked to the Lamborghini. As soon as she reached the car, the door to the co-driver's seat was opened. Taking a deep breath, she bent down and got into the car.

The minute she sat down, the cold man next to her closed the door immediately. He then started the engine and drove away.

“Sean...” Lyla’s heart was beating so quickly that it almost jumped out of her throat. She turned her head slightly to look at his indifferent side-profile.

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Why did Sean come here? Why is he here... coincidentally at this moment?

Meanwhile, Lyla clenched her fists tightly.

Sean...” She forced a smile as she murmured, “Why are you here? Do you have a business discussion with the Hart Group?”

Sean merely looked straight ahead at the road in front of him, as though he had not heard Lyla’s question. He drove at such a speed that Lyla saw the traffic police signaled him to slow down, but he ignored them.

Both her hands, which were placed on her knees, were clenched so tightly that her knuckles turned white.

“Sean—”

The car suddenly came to an abrupt stop with a loud screech. Sean had stepped on the brakes furiously, stopping his car on the roadside as he interrupted Lyla, “Why were you at the Hart Group?”

Earlier at the Ritz Carlton, Sean saw Lyla going to Tony from afar.

Just as he was going to walk over to them, he heard Lyla asking Tony to help her.

The countless incidents that had happened before this were quite confusing and messy, so Sean had forgotten about one fact—the properties in Hillville that belonged to the Chase Group were sold off with Lyla’s help. At this moment, he was quite certain that the person who bought all the properties was Tony.

Lyla said that she has some connections with the Hart Family. Just how deep does this connection run?

Tony wasn't someone to be messed around with and he would not buy the properties from the Chase Group without any reason. After all, it was a tough job to expand Hilliville. Even if he really wanted to do that, he would be better off accepting another project. Hence, he must have his own motives for doing so. Is his end goal... Myra?

After thinking about it, Sean's face darkened. When he saw the few of them leaving, he could not help but drive behind them and follow Lyla.

After waiting at the Hart Group for a long time, he finally saw Lyla walking out. The moment he saw her slowly walking out, he suddenly felt as though he did not know the woman in front of him.

Just how many secrets is she keeping from me?

"Lyla, the client whom you mentioned last time, the one who bought Hilliville... He is Tony Hart, isn't he?"

Sean suddenly turned around and glared at Lyla fiercely. Even though his breathing quickened, his gaze was stern.

After receiving such a fierce glare from Sean, Lyla's heart palpitated fiercely once again, even though she had calmed herself down after much effort just now. Her hands trembled slightly as she bit her lip. "Why are you asking about this, Sean? Didn't I tell you that I didn't know the client myself? Someone recommended him to me—"

"Who recommended him?" Sean's eyes were almond-shaped. When his eyes narrowed and he looked at someone, one would feel like they were his prey who could no longer escape.

Lyla's heart sank. Even though she tried to keep calm on the surface, she knew that Sean probably knew something about what she had done today, so she clenched her fists. "The Hart Group, of course. Didn't I tell you that I have connections in the Hart Group? However, since they have always been keeping a low profile, I didn't see the need to mention them. All we needed was just to sell Hilliville off at that time, wasn't it?"

Wasn't it? Indeed

At that time, the Chase Group was in a financial crisis from various aspects. It was a great help to them that they could sell that piece of land.

However, Sean knew that things were not that simple.

How much does Myra know?

Grabbing the steering wheel tightly, Sean had a dark look in his eyes.

“Sean, do you have anything on in the afternoon? If not, can you send me home? I’m quite tired now.” Seeing that he remained silent, Lyla thought that the crisis was over this time.

However, Sean suddenly raised his head and looked at her. “Why did you meet Tony today? What favor are you asking from him?”

Lyla’s heart skipped a beat. “Nothing much. I just wanted to ask if he could take back the cancellation of my advertisement opportunity. I know that you are busy now, Sean, and I don’t want to be a burden to you, which is why I want to get back to work. Let’s work hard together for our family, shall we?”

Sean suddenly snorted out laughing, but there was not a trace of humor in his eyes. “Lyla, I thought you had connections with the Hart Group and Tony? Why did they suddenly cancel your advertisement and all future job opportunities, and stopped your journey to being a celebrity in Bradford City?”

Lyla clenched her fists tightly but there was a resentful and morose expression on her face. “Sean, you know that Tony is with Myra now; of course she doesn’t want me to have a good life. In the past, I did have a good relationship with the Hart Group, but now... You clearly saw it yourself today that Tony has no intention to talk to me. Sean, even before you divorced Myra, she was definitely hooking up with Tony already. Otherwise, why would Tony suddenly change his attitude toward me? I know you have been Myra’s husband for two years and if you want to defend her, Sean, I don’t blame you. I just... I don’t want you to be fooled by her.”

With that, tears immediately welled up in Lyla’s eyes.

Throughout her whole speech, Sean remained indifferent. “Lyla, what you have just told me... Is it true? Are you lying to me?”

“Why would I lie?” The ominous feeling that Lyla had increased. She pursed her lips as she put on an even more resentful expression. “Sean, I don’t expect Tony to let me off the hook now. Today, he already stated that he will

not help me. Honestly, I've already expected this outcome but I just wanted to have closure."

Sean did not utter another word and quickly started the engine as he drove away.

Throughout their journey, Lyla merely felt nervous and anxious.

Even though Tony decided to help her to strengthen her position in the Chase Family, he was doing this for his own good. After recalling the suspicions that Sean had, Lyla could not stop thinking about Sean's feelings towards Myra.

Lyla could tell that Sean was gradually becoming colder to herself; the intimacy and love between them was dwindling. Since some time ago, they felt like strangers when they faced each other.

She clenched her fists tightly.

Soon, they reached the Chase Residence and Lyla got out of the car slowly. Just as she was about to turn around to bid farewell to him, the car immediately made a turn and drove away even before she could open her mouth.

"Sean..." Looking at the leaving car fixedly, Lyla's heart turned colder.

Not far from her in the Lamborghini that was slowly driving away, Sean picked up the phone that had been vibrating since just now. Soon, a low voice rang out from the other end. "Director Chase, I've looked it up for you. A month ago, Miss Fisher did go to the Hart Group around once or twice per week. She seemed to have a good relationship with Director Hart until a month ago, when the Hart Group suddenly announced the cancelation of her endorsement for the Sunny Bay Project. Apart from that, they also said that they refuse to work with her from now onward—"

Sean hung up with a dark and mysterious look on his face.

After an entire afternoon of meetings, Myra checked her phone as soon as she walked out of the conference room. Unexpectedly, there were many missed calls from the same caller.

Looking at the unfamiliar phone number, she frowned and called back. The other end picked up almost immediately. Then, Myra asked, “Hi, may I know who this is?”

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It was silent on the other end of the line and there were only sounds of labored breathing and some static noise. Myra frowned slightly and she repeated herself, “Hello, may I know who is on the line? How can I help you?” However, she was greeted with the same silence.

She waited for a long time—it was so long that she assumed it was a prank call. Just as she was about to hang up, a hoarse male voice spoke. “Myra, I want to see you.”

Myra was very familiar with this man’s voice—it was one that she had heard more than a thousand times in her dreams. However, listening to his voice now no longer had the same effect as the past, where her heart used to race. She scowled deeply and muttered, “I have nothing to say to you.”

Sean must have known that she was about to hang up on him because he sounded anxious and urgent when he said, “Myra, Tony is not a good person. He has been plotting for a long time to be together with you. You have to believe me!” I am sure that the man isn’t as devoted to Myra as he presents himself to be. He must have an ulterior motive, but I just can’t seem to find concrete proof at the moment! Well, there’s the Hillville project. However, it might not just be that project because there might be other things that we are not aware of!

“Sean, I am truly curious as to why you’re telling me this.” Myra struggled to hide her anger and unhappiness. She laughed mirthlessly and she retorted, “What’s the matter? Do you feel that you’ve lost your manly dignity since I am not suffering after leaving you? Are you unhappy because I am doing well in life? Will you be happy only if I miss you to death and pester you every day after leaving you? Let me tell you this, Sean—I am not a cheap woman!” Myra was bewildered by Sean’s sudden phone call.

He remained silent after listening to Myra, but he did not deny her claims.

In the beginning, I was mocking Myra in my heart when I saw how she just couldn’t wait to divorce me at the Civil Affairs Bureau. I thought that she was just pretending to appear unrestrained and natural, and I assumed that she

was just trying to hold onto her last shred of dignity. I was so sure that she would come crawling back to me in the end. However, I did not expect her to end up with Tony Hart.

After learning that Tony and Myra had become a couple, Sean felt that it was unacceptable. She is my wife! How could she be together with that man? She told me that she is in love with me and me only, so why is she smiling so happily with that man?

Sean gripped his cell phone so tightly that his knuckles turned white. “Myra, we were once husband and wife—I would never lie to you. One day, you will understand that I am doing it for your sake, whereas that man has been plotting to be together with you. He’s only going to hurt you!”

“That’s enough, Sean.” Myra could no longer hide her frosty tone anymore. “Have you ever treated me right? If you haven’t, please do not claim that you are doing this for my sake after our divorce. You claim that another man has been deliberately plotting since he treats me well. Why don’t you try recalling how you treated me in the past? Since we’re divorced, you should stop switching phone numbers to contact me. I honestly do not know you well anymore, and I am not interested in having an outsider criticize my private life. Also, you should mind your current wife if you have the time.”

Myra recalled Lyla coming right in front of Tony and herself in the afternoon. She was asking Tony for help and I was rather upset. Why is the couple showing up constantly in my life ever since I’ve divorced Sean?

“Myra, you will regret it!” Sean’s expression changed drastically and he squinted at the heavy traffic outside of his car window. “I even heard that Tony used to have a woman in the United States and she’s back here looking for him. Myra, how well do you know Tony? You do not know how cruel this man is. He disregarded his best friend, who had fought and struggled with him, for his selfish interests by dissolving the company and in the end, he only distributed 10% of the shares to his close friend. He is the Devil, who will utterly destroy someone and one day, you will—”

Click! Myra hung up on the call straight away and she blocked the phone number swiftly. She stared at her cell phone and a flash of anger reflected in her eyes. I did not know that this man is such an abomination. I can’t believe he is talking bad about someone behind their back. Has he forgotten how he treated me in the past? Is he trying to disgust me further by claiming that he’s doing this for my sake?

Myra's phone started ringing again and her expression soured. However, when she noticed the caller ID on the screen, she realized that it was Mr. Smith from the Parker Group. She relaxed significantly before answering the call. Mr. Smith was calling her to inform her about the contract between the two companies.

Before the call ended, Mr. Smith invited Myra for a meal, and indirectly hinted for her to bring Tony along if the latter had the time. Myra knew that Mr. Smith was actually inviting Tony, but she did not want to bother Tony further. Hence, she skillfully changed the topic before hanging up.

Tony has helped me tremendously during the contract signing in the Ritz Carlton today. He must have been worried that something might crop up. His appearance in the private room today has confirmed our relationship, and he did that to make sure that Parker Group does not underestimate the Stark Group in the future. Myra's mood improved tremendously when she thought of Tony. Initially, she wanted to phone him, but she changed her mind when she recalled that he was most probably in a meeting now.

After work, Myra packed her things, and she made her way down the building after bidding Tilly goodbye. The elevator stopped at the Project Department and she bumped into Kris, who was entering the elevator with luggage in tow. The latter was dressed beautifully and sensually, a stark contrast from her usual office wear. Most importantly, she was dragging a small luggage with her. It was obvious that she was preparing to go on a trip.

Kris' expression fell once she saw Myra. Nevertheless, she merely snorted and the two of them acted as if they had not seen each other. When the elevator arrived at the ground floor, both of them left the elevator simultaneously.

Myra left the Stark Group and she made her way directly to a black SUV parked right outside. At that moment, a domineering man was leaning against the front of the SUV. He was wearing a suit and had on a pair of leather shoes. He had a serious expression but he was unmistakably handsome. The man was using his phone, whereas a cigarette was dangling from his other hand, causing smoke to shroud his face and blur his facial features. Nevertheless, his elegance was recognizable instantly.

Myra blushed slightly when she saw Tony, and she immediately felt annoyed with herself. I've been together with him for such a long time but I still get butterflies whenever I see him.

Myra walked slowly toward Tony. He had already stubbed out his cigarette and was smiling at her. He then wrapped his arms around Myra while planting a soft kiss on her forehead. "Let's go. Grandpa asked us to head home today and Grandma misses you."

Myra nodded. Tony opened the door of the front passenger seat for her. Just when she was bending down to get into the car, she saw Kris, who was staring at them, from the corner of her eye. Something seemed to flash through Myra's gaze but she took her seat in the car swiftly.

Tony had also noticed Kris, who was standing nearby, and he narrowed his eyes slightly. Then, he saw the person coming over to pick her up and his thin lips curled into a faint smile. The car drove away quickly.

Behind them, Kris was staring at the man who came over to carry her luggage. "Didn't I ask you to be here by 5.30 PM? Look at the time now—it's almost 6!"

The man's friendly face appeared apologetic as he murmured, "I'm sorry, baby. The traffic was heavy today but it won't delay your journey."

Standing before Love Chapter 247

Kris just could not muster her anger whenever she came face-to-face with Hayden, who had never lost his temper with her. I'm not sure why but ever since I met Hayden, he has had me wrapped around his finger! However, I need to remind myself who is the man I need to marry!

She got into the car gloomily and Hayden seemed to sense her foul mood. After he got into the car, he pulled Kris closer to give her a kiss. The kiss seemed to have ignited his passion because he almost pinned her underneath him in the car.

"What are you doing?" Kris regarded the man in front of her, who was drowned in lust. She shoved against him and she scowled unhappily. "Why aren't you driving yet? I will never let you off the hook if I miss my flight!"

Hayden merely chuckled good-naturedly as he released her. "Alright, alright. I will send my baby to the airport now. Come to think of it, does the Stark Group have a project abroad? Why are you flying to the United States out of the blue?"

Kris' gaze flashed mysteriously. However, she kept her head lowered while pretending to adjust her clothes, so Hayden did not notice anything amiss. "Dad wants to expand the business abroad and he asked me to check out the situation," she answered lightly.

"That makes sense." Hayden produced a delicate pink box out of nowhere suddenly, and he presented it in front of Kris. "Open it and have a look. See if you like it."

Kris' eyes shone brightly but she pretended to look away. "What is it?"

Hayden smiled at her without answering her.

Kris accepted the box and her mood improved straight away. Recently, Hayden is almost like a changed person. He is always giving me surprises here and there. These gifts do not cost a bomb but they are pricey. If I were to put together everything he has given me, it will no doubt be a hefty amount.

True enough, when Kris opened the box, she found a 12-carat, pink diamond ring nestled in the box. The diamond was huge and cut into a luxurious peony-shape, and it was simply stunning.

"Thank you." Kris thanked Hayden quietly while hiding the delight in her heart.

Hayden chuckled while caressing her head. "Do you like it?" Judging by his tone, he seemed to be hinting at something else.

The hint couldn't be more obvious when a man in love was presenting his woman with a ring.

I will not accept Hayden's ring, but this ring is especially beautiful and I can't bring myself to reject it...

Just as she was hesitating, she did not notice a trace of darkness flash through Hayden's eyes. Soon, she heard his gentle voice. "Kris, don't panic. I just want you to be happy, which is why I gave you this present. Please don't overthink it."

And so, she happily accepted the gift without feeling pressured after listening to Hayden's explanation.

“Hayden, I really like the gift. Thank you so much, Darling.” Kris beamed brighter than before.

It is wonderful to have a lover as generous and understanding as Hayden!

She leaned over to kiss Hayden’s cheek before she looked down to study the diamond ring, not noticing his smiling face stiffening slightly.

This was Myra’s third visit to the Hart Residence. She went empty-handed the first two times, and she even accepted a gift from Lisa when she left during the second visit. This time, she was determined to buy gifts for everybody.

Hence, she made Tony park the car in the mall. She wanted him to give a second opinion, so the two of them went into the mall.

They shopped around and soon their hands were full with bags.

Some were gifts for Sebastian and Lisa, and there were also presents for Serena and Henry. Myra also prepared a gift for Shawn too, just in case.

However, after buying a ton of gifts, Tony didn’t seem ready to leave.

Myra counted the gifts and she felt that she had everybody covered. Then, she asked Tony, who was standing beside her, “Aren’t we leaving? Do you have something else you need to buy?”

Tony’s expression fell when he heard that. Even when he was holding multiple shopping bags, he still managed to emit a domineering but restrained aura. He squinted slightly and his narrowed eyes glinted menacingly as he looked at Myra, who was standing in front of him. In the end, he asked casually, “Are you done shopping? Have you got a gift for everybody?”

“Yeah. Old Madam Hart, Old Master Hart, Serena, Henry and Shawn... Oh—is Damian coming back too?” Myra knew that Damian was usually in the troops, so he was rarely home.

Tony raised a brow at her and he gazed at her with a slight smirk. “You seem to be keeping tabs on them accurately.”

Myra pondered for a while when she noticed his expression. Her large eyes then twinkled with a smile as she teased, “Are you being difficult because you assumed that I’ve forgotten to buy you a present?”

Tony chuckled coldly but his laughter did not sound genuine. The next thing she knew, Myra felt a sharp pain on her waist because Tony had pinched her hard.

“Tony!” Myra wasn’t sure what to feel. “You’re so childish for a man in his thirties! Haven’t I bought you a shirt not too long ago?”

Then, Myra immediately recalled that the shirt was charged on Tony’s card... She cleared her throat and she clung onto his arm, dragging him into a nearby shop.

However, Myra became embarrassed immediately because it was a lingerie shop for women.

Once they entered the shop, the shop assistant welcomed the two of them with a warm smile and she greeted them enthusiastically. “Sir, Miss, may I know what you’re looking for? Do you need any recommendations? We have a new batch of products recently; the style and quality are top-notch and comfortable. Why don’t you give it a try, Miss?”

The shop assistant’s eyes twinkled brightly. She knew that this was a huge opportunity for her, judging by the shopping bags the couple had in their hands.

Myra wanted to reject the shop assistant shyly since they had entered the shop by mistake. However, Tony picked up a set of lingerie seriously and he spoke to the shop assistant. “I want another two sets of this size, in black and white.”

The shop assistant didn’t seem embarrassed at all. On the contrary, she picked up two sets swiftly. After selecting Tony’s requested pieces, she made her way directly to the cashier.

Myra flushed a deep red straight away.

She knew from the beginning that Tony was not a shy man. However, this was her first time seeing a man choosing a woman’s lingerie in such a collected manner!

Compared to her awkwardness, Tony appeared extremely calm. He held onto her waist while making his way to the cashier, and he looked as if this was a natural thing to do.

He paid by card and left the shop after picking the bag up.

Myra really wished the ground would open up and swallow her when she saw the shop assistant's suggestive gaze. Tony is such a hooligan! Does he want everybody in the world to know that he knows my measurements?

She did not select any gifts for Tony by the time they got into the car.

Myra was still hung up on the incident in the shop, so her cheeks were still flaming red; her eyes were slightly moist and they accentuated the darkness of her pupils. Somehow, she seemed even more charming than usual and she did not look angry at all. In fact, she seemed to be... throwing a tantrum.

"You're old enough, so why are you still blushing so easily?" Tony asked casually while glancing at a blushing Myra, who was seated in the front passenger seat.

Then, he reached out to pinch her cheek.

It is a taboo for women to have others comment on our age, especially if they were to comment directly that we are old!

Standing before Love Chapter 248

Myra's pinkish face flushed a deep red immediately and she turned to glare at Tony. "I'm just 24, whereas you are almost 35 years old now! Who is the old one here?"

"Are you complaining that I'm old?" Tony's eyes narrowed in warning when he heard that.

The car came to a sudden halt and Myra was flung forward by the sudden, intense inertia. There was a loud 'clack' of the seatbelt unfastening; the next thing she knew, Tony had picked her up and she was facing him.

"Tony Hart! We should be headed to the Hart Residence. I'll leave you here alone if you keep this up!" Myra screamed at him.

Tony cocked a brow at her before releasing her slowly because he must have sensed her annoyance.

She let out a sigh of relief but before she could be fully seated, he started raining kisses on her.

Myra was at a loss for words.

It was dark by the time the both of them arrived at the Hart Residence.

They weren't even sure if the whole family was waiting for them to start dinner; it would be horrible if they were.

A small figure dashed toward Myra the moment she got out of the car. "Myra, you're finally here! We have been waiting for you for a very long time!"

Myra was rather embarrassed upon hearing that. "I'm so sorry to have kept everyone waiting."

Then, she glared viciously at Tony who emerged from the driver's seat.

Tony approached Myra's side and he pushed Henry away, who was leaning against Myra. Then, he wrapped an arm around her waist and walked forward. "Henry, Myra brought a lot of presents for everyone. You should take the gifts into the house."

Henry stared helplessly at Tony, who had snatched Myra away in the blink of an eye. Nevertheless, the boy thought of the woman in the house and his expression turned grave again. He walked toward the trunk of Tony's car obediently, and he summoned the housekeeper to help him carry everything into the house.

Myra was unhappy with Tony's behavior of constantly bullying his nephew. Hence, she reached out to poke him. "Why are you jealous of your own nephew? He is still so young; he doesn't even know anything."

"If he's allowed to cling onto someone else's woman when he knows nothing, imagine what he'd do when he knows the game!" Tony retorted stubbornly.

Myra was rendered speechless by his response.

With that, they continued walking into the house. Serena and Sebastian were already waiting for them, and the former's gaze reflected her worries when they saw the two of them walking into the house. Sebastian, on the other

hand, raised a brow and he seemed gleeful about something, but the twinkle vanished almost instantly.

“Hello, Old Master Hart; Hi, Serena,” Myra greeted the two of them.

Serena smiled at her. “Myra, it has been ages since you last visited. You should drop by more often.”

“I will, Serena.” Myra nodded in a friendly manner; she had a good relationship with Serena, after all.

Sebastian caressed his beard and he adopted a cold and distant manner. “It’s fine if you are dropping by, but didn’t you check the time? Must you make everybody wait for you to prove how special you are?”

“Grandpa!” Serena glared at Sebastian disapprovingly. “You were looking forward to their arrival, so why are you asking such an offensive question when they are finally here?” Then, she turned around to face Myra. “Myra, you know how Grandpa is. He always says things he doesn’t mean—don’t take his words to heart.”

Sebastian snorted since Serena reprimanded him. He folded his hands behind his back before walking away.

After taking a couple steps forward, he didn’t hear anybody following him so he turned around. “Hurry up now! Do you want to starve us to death?”

Myra grinned happily and she clung onto Tony’s arm while walking forward.

Serena followed by Myra’s side and she whispered quietly, “Grandpa had no idea that she was dropping by the Hart Residence when he invited you both here. After all, they are related somehow, so he couldn’t just ask her to leave.”

Myra was slightly bewildered because she wasn’t sure what Serena was referring to. However, she quickly understood what Serena meant when she saw the woman seated beside Lisa in the dining room.

Myra did not get a good look at Gemma last night because it was dark, so she merely had a glimpse of her. Under the bright lights today, Myra could clearly see her facial features.

It was undeniable that Gemma was a beauty—in fact, her beauty was breathtaking. Her eyes sparkled with a magnificent radiance, and her originally intricate face seemed perfect with the layer of light makeup. She looked like an exquisite Barbie doll.

Gemma was seated casually in the dining room, but it was impossible to miss her presence due to her elegance.

When she saw Tony entering the dining room, she completely ignored the woman standing beside him; instead, she stood up to run toward him. ‘Tony, I’ve waited for you for ages! You’re finally home!’

Sebastian noticed Tony’s gaze but he merely met his grandson’s gaze innocently and gleefully. Well, I didn’t plan this—I didn’t expect the girl from the Walton Family to be so stubborn! I can’t believe that she came all the way here.

Nevertheless, Sebastian felt guilty instantly when he shifted his focus onto Myra, who was standing just beside Tony. Clearing his throat, he muttered, “Myra, your grandma knows that you love chicken soup; look, she went ahead and spent the whole afternoon preparing the soup for you. You should have more later!”

After Sebastian’s announcement, Gemma turned to look at Myra straight away.

Earlier, Gemma was too distracted because she only had eyes for Tony, so she didn’t even notice Myra. Now that she heard Sebastian addressing Lisa as Myra’s ‘Grandma’ instead of ‘Old Madam Hart’, she couldn’t help but stare unblinkingly at Myra. Gemma finally noticed the woman, who was standing beside Tony, was clinging onto his arm when they walked into the dining room. I can’t believe Tony did not shove her away!

Gemma frowned immediately and she narrowed her eyes menacingly at Myra. Her gaze was frosty when she asked, “Old Master Hart, I wonder whose family this young lady is from.”

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“She’s the young lady of the Stark Family. Didn’t Tony tell you, Gemma?” Sebastian looked at Gemma in surprise to salvage what was left of Myra’s

approval of him. Then, he shot Tony a disgruntled look. “And you—why are you keeping such a low profile when you are in a relationship?”

“I’m worried that somebody might snatch her away,” Tony answered calmly despite Sebastian’s rhetorical question.

Everybody was astounded when they heard that, but they broke into knowing grins right away.

The only time Tony acts like a normal man is when we talk about Myra in front of her. Thereafter, they turned to Gemma in unison, their gazes holding traces of pity.

Tony tightened his arm around Myra’s waist when he said that and he completely ignored Gemma who was standing in front of him. Then, he led Myra to their seats.

Gemma’s expression soured slightly.

Based on her usual temper, she would have marched right up to Myra and given her a slap while demanding for her to leave. However, this was the Hart Residence. Sebastian and Lisa, who were the elders, were around, so she could not go overboard.

Nevertheless, Gemma was trembling with anger when she saw Tony holding Myra in his arms.

How dare the woman seduce Tony by leaning against him so intimately?

Gemma clenched her fists tightly while suppressing the bubbling anger rising in her chest. She turned around to approach the two of them, but she maintained a calm expression. “Oh—the Stark Family? I wasn’t aware that there’s a family with that name in Bradford City; I suppose it’s not a large family. I am sorry, Miss Stark, for not recognizing you. That was rude of me.”

Everybody frowned when they heard that. What Gemma said was extremely rude but she made it sound very natural. She walked to Myra and reached out her hand. “Nice to meet you, Miss Stark.”

Myra regarded the exquisite woman who was staring at her with a frosty gaze, but she did not give anything away. After all, they were in the Hart Residence, so it was best to keep trouble to a minimum. Myra knew that she had to keep

her cool even though Gemma was eyeing Tony, not to mention that the woman was challenging her openly.

In the end, Myra extended her hand. “Likewise, Miss Walton.”

When they shook hands, Myra felt sharp fingernails digging into her right thumb. A sharp pain shot through her hand and her eyes reflected her surprise, but Gemma released her hand almost instantly.

Before Myra could take her seat, everybody saw Gemma picking up some wet wipes from the table after releasing Myra’s hand. Then, she started wiping her hand carefully; it was the one which she used to shake Myra’s. After that, Gemma threw the wet wipes into the trash can.

The atmosphere in the dining room changed subtly.

When Gemma saw everyone looking at her, she smiled at them innocently. “I am much like Tony and I’m slightly obsessed with cleanliness. I can’t allow even the slightest filth to come into contact with my hand. I apologize for that.”

The slightest filth...

Isn’t she blatantly stating that there’s something filthy on Myra’s hand...

Tony’s expression darkened instantly. He glanced at Gemma, who was still standing at the side, and his frosty gaze lingered on her. He looked as if he was about to freeze her to death with his stare.

Gemma felt shivers down her spine and she was even more upset.

This woman must be the woman who got into Tony’s car last night! Today, Lyla even mentioned that Tony is in love with a woman—could this woman be the one? The young lady of the Stark Family? Does she truly think that she’s from an important family? It’s nothing to shout about! I wonder how she plotted to get into Tony’s bed!

Sebastian snorted loudly and his expression turned foul too. Suddenly, Serena broke the silence. “Tony and Miss Stark, do go ahead and wash your hands; it’s almost dinnertime. Miss Walton is right—you can’t be sure how dirty your hands are.”

Gemma’s expression changed drastically when she heard Serena.

She was most probably not expecting the Hart Family to be so protective of Myra. Then, she noticed Sebastian's and Lisa's expressions—they didn't look too pleased with her either. Gemma's expression fell but she snorted lightly all of sudden, because she saw the seat to Tony's left was empty. She was about to sit down but an 8 to 9-year-old suddenly ran toward her swiftly.

The child saw Gemma was about to sit beside Tony just as he was entering the dining room. He ran even faster when he saw that. "Don't sit at my mother's seat!" Henry's voice reverberated throughout the dining room before anyone even saw him.

Gemma was stunned into silence but Henry had already reached her. He pulled Serena's hand and they took their seats to Tony's left. "This is my mother's seat. Miss, your seat is next to my Great-Grandma. Have you forgotten?"

Gemma's expression soured while she stared at Serena, who had taken her seat calmly.

If I abandon my earlier seat, it would seem as if I've abandoned my position with Old Madam Hart. After all, I was chatting with her before Tony arrived. I need to leave a good impression with the Hart Family, after all, but if I were to give up the chance to sit beside Tony, it will benefit that woman he has by his side! Gemma was extremely frustrated but she had to force a smile. "Henry, you are so childish. Who says that I'm sitting here?"

With that, Gemma made her way reluctantly toward Lisa. Later, she saw Henry seated beside Myra while smiling at her happily, as though claiming credit for what he had done.

Myra smiled happily at him while patting the child's head.

She's such a b*tch! Only God knows what she did to charm Tony's weird nephew!

Myra was about to stand up to head to the bathroom. However, just as she stood up, Tony grabbed her hand straight away. He tugged at her suddenly and she fell onto his lap.

Tony stayed put and he wrapped his arms around Myra. "Have a seat first. Why are you in such a hurry?"

That is such a blatant public display of affection!

Everybody appeared calm since they were used to Tony's fake gentlemanly façade. Henry barely flinched, apart from rolling his eyes at Tony. Instead, he enthusiastically served a bowl of soup in front of Myra. "Great-grandma spent the whole afternoon preparing the soup for you, Myra. I'll give you a bowl of it first and you can enjoy it when it cools slightly later."

Upon listening to Henry's comment, Myra suddenly recalled that Sebastian said something similar earlier.

She was just about to say something when Tony squeezed her hand. His expression was tender when he said, "Quick—thank Grandma."

At the mention of the word 'Grandma', Myra couldn't be sure if Tony did it deliberately but he emphasized the term. Tony squeezed her hand tighter when he said that too.

Myra's face blushed immediately and she glared at him. Then, she stood up from his lap to turn toward Lisa.

"Thank you—" Before she could finish her sentence, Tony stood up abruptly to wrap an arm around her waist. Myra felt a sharp pain in her waist, and she glanced at the quiet but shameless man standing beside her. Her face flushed red when she whispered, "Grandma."

Lisa's expression remained calm and indifferent, but her eyes reflected her amusement. "Quickly now—go and wash your hands."

"Okay." Myra nodded and she made her way to the bathroom.

Under everybody's suggestive scrutiny, Tony stood up lazily to head to the bathroom after Myra.

Standing before Love Chapter 250

Gemma gritted her teeth viciously when she saw the tacit understanding between the whole family.

I did not expect the Hart Family to like that woman so much. It's not just Serena and her child! That woman even has Old Master Hart and Old Madam Hart wrapped around her finger.

I, on the other hand, feel like a total outsider! Before Tony arrived home, everybody treated me courteously but they were mostly just going through the motions. However, once that woman arrived with Tony, no one seemed even bothered to pretend anymore. I even noticed that Serena gave me a cold look earlier!

Gemma had never been treated in such a way in her life.

“Old Master Hart, do you remember the incident that happened in the United States three years ago when you were there? Tony was so busy that he forgot to pick you up and I was the one who found you at the airport. My parents and grandparents blamed me for not taking good care of you, Old Master Hart. If you and Old Madam Hart were to visit the States again, I will ensure that you two have the best time in the world!” Gemma plastered a smile on her face once more while she looked at the two elders of the Hart Family.

Lisa remained indifferent and she merely nodded calmly. Gemma was not discouraged because she knew Lisa’s temper well. However, Sebastian merely responded in kind after she suggested that. “We’ll see; that’s in the future.”

He seemed even colder and more distant now compared to earlier. Tonight, I specifically requested Tony to invite Myra back home to the Hart Residence for dinner. However, Gemma showed up out of the blue. In the beginning, I treated her courteously but after what happened earlier, I’m rather upset with Gemma now.

After all, Sebastian might complain about Myra out loud, but he was very protective of her.

Gemma scowled slightly when she heard that, while Serena smiled warmly. “Tony has Miss Stark now. In the future, if Grandpa and Grandma do not have anyone to keep them company in the United States, I’m sure that Miss Stark would be more than willing to accompany them. I doubt they would trouble you, Miss Walton. I heard that the Walton Family is moving back to Bradford City recently, so how could we possibly expect you to fly all the way to the United States, Miss Walton?”

Serena’s tone was gentle—she claimed that she did not want to trouble Gemma, but it was obvious that she was hinting that the latter was merely an outsider. Even if they had to trouble someone, they would rather trouble their family, which was Myra.

Gemma's expression soured straight away but Lisa announced lightly, "Let's eat."

Gemma stopped herself from speaking just in time when she heard Lisa. She was unhappy to be treated in such a way by the Hart Family, but she could not possibly go against Lisa.

Just as drama broiled underneath the surface, things were rather relaxed in the bathroom.

Myra washed her hands once she entered the bathroom.

However, just as she turned on the tap water, she heard footsteps following her into the washroom. Then, she heard the door close and the click of the lock.

Myra's heart skipped a beat because she knew that Tony wasn't a gentleman, nor a decent one at that.

He's locking the door when we should just be washing hands...

She immediately washed away the soap bubbles on her hands, but a figure pressed against her just when she was turning around.

Myra took a couple steps back hastily but the man in front of her didn't give up. He moved two steps forward to force her against the basin.

Her face flushed red and her large eyes widened when she met Tony's deep and teasing gaze. Myra suddenly felt embarrassed and she shoved him away. "Tony, stop fooling around. Everybody is waiting for us to have dinner!"

After the previous experience, it could be confirmed that the washroom was indeed not soundproof. She did not want anyone outside to listen to their conversation.

Tony glanced at Myra, who was blushing, and he suddenly lowered his head. He chuckled quietly as he murmured, "Myra, look at yourself. You are so scared, as if I'm about to devour you."

Myra flushed an even deeper red after he teased her.

I believe this is his goal by putting me in this position while facing a dangerous man like himself!

“Well, in that case, you should wash your hands straight away. Why are you giving me that look?”

“That’s because you’re pretty, Myra,” Tony cocked a brow at her.

Although she knew that Tony was just making a casual comment, Myra couldn’t help but feel a sense of sweetness deep down. Nevertheless, she kept a stern expression. “Quickly now; I’m hungr—!”

Before she could complete her sentence, Tony kissed her lips hard.

Later, he released her and he went ahead to turn on the tap water to wash his hands, acting as if nothing happened between the two of them.

Myra was astounded and she regarded Tony’s serious side profile. He had a handsome face and a chiseled jawline. In fact, he seemed as if he was the extraordinary work of the Gods, but Myra couldn’t help but grit her teeth in frustration.

Kris has just left and Gemma pops out now. This man in front of me truly has the ability to attract women!

“If you continue glaring at me, the whole bathroom is about to turn green.” She heard a deep rumbling chuckle. Myra snapped back to reality, and she saw Tony’s dark and beautiful eyes staring at her from the reflection of the mirror. His eyes were twinkling with a smile.

Her cheeks flushed red again and she glared at him stubbornly. Then, she opened the bathroom door to leave straight away.

Tony caught up to her effortlessly and he put his arm around her waist. He moved his thin lips close to her ear as he murmured, “She isn’t as pretty as you are.”

Myra knew clearly that he was referring to Gemma.

“You’re such a smooth talker!” Myra refuted him, but she was secretly delighted.

“Fine; in that case, you aren’t as pretty as she is, indeed.” Tony’s calm voice sounded almost like a hooligan. In public, Myra had always assumed that he

was a very serious and old-fashioned person. Who would have expected him to act like a rascal in a shameless way?

Myra pursed her lips when she heard him. She tried untangling herself from his grip but Tony held her waist even tighter as he laughed quietly. “However, I am in love with you.”

Myra felt as if fireworks went off in her heart. She kept a stern expression but her eyes twinkled in delight.

Tony laughed when he saw the happiness reflected in her large and clear eyes. Then, he caressed Myra’s head gently.

Well, she got one thing right—I’m 35 years old and she’s 24. No matter what, she is like a child in front of me at times.

Gemma almost lost her mind to anger when she saw the two of them approaching while interacting intimately. This was especially true when she saw Tony’s openly loving gaze for Myra.

I know how picky he is!

He would never let strange women approach him, nor would he get too close with women in general. In fact, he has never had a female secretary before. He even put up a wall to stop women from getting closer to him!

He has never paid attention to me either, even if I am the younger sister of his closest work partner. In the past, I used to think that he’s just being himself and that he’s ruthless to women in general. I thought that he would not sweet talk women like other men, nor would he get involved with them. However, that was what made me attracted to him.

I did not expect to find out today that he is merely cruel to ‘other women’. It seems that he is capable of gazing at a woman with such tenderness and love in his eyes.

Standing before Love Chapter 251

Unfortunately, that woman was not her!

Gemma shifted her gaze to the woman beside Tony. Stark Group was not well-known, or at least, she had never heard of them before. Her family

probably isn't as great as ours. On top of that, even though she has an acceptable look and figure, there are tons of women out there who have better looks and figures than her! What right does she have to stand next to Tony? A darkness flickered across her eyes.

Myra and Tony quickly took their seats. He did not give her a hard time at this dinner which made her feel relieved. However, it wasn't easy to dismiss Gemma who was sitting across from her.

"Tony, this claypot eggplant dish is delicious. Have a taste. This sea bass is also very tender. I know you don't like fish skin, so I removed it. Try it, Tony. Oh, and this soup. I tried it earlier and it's really fresh. I'll get a bowl for you."

From the moment Tony sat down, Gemma eagerly piled food on the small plate in front of him until it formed a mound, but Tony did not take one look at it and even had a frown on his face.

Myra also noticed it, but she simply disregarded Gemma. She knew that Tony did not like Gemma and that Gemma was only embarrassing herself.

After getting a piece of sea bass for herself and putting it on her bowl of rice, a pair of chopsticks quickly came in from the side and took it off of her bowl. Without a change in expression, Tony ate the sea bass he took from her in front of everyone.

Myra's face slowly grew red. She stepped on his foot hard, but he did not seem to care. Subsequently, Myra only had a few bites of her food as Tony consumed most of it.

Sebastian could not watch this go on any longer. Letting out a dry cough, he looked over at the housekeeper sitting at the farthest end of the dining table and instructed, "Mrs. Frye, could you please get Tony a new plate?"

Getting up, Mrs. Frye quickly went to the kitchen to get a new plate and switched out the plate in front of Tony that Gemma had filled up with all sorts of food.

Gemma quickly looked flustered. She had never seen this side of Tony before. Not only was he being affectionate with another woman, but he also did not mind eating the food she had touched before. He seemed like a different person in the dining room tonight. He's a completely different person

in front of Myra. He was no longer the superior being above everyone else. He was also a man who knew how to love a woman.

“Oh? Myra, is that a mosquito bite on your neck?” Henry asked all of a sudden as he stared at the two red marks on her neck.

His innocent question drew the attention of everyone at the table. Some looked dubious, some looked awkward, and some looked envious. Lastly, there was also Tony who looked calm.

Serena shot a glare at her son. “No talking at the dining table!”

Despite feeling slightly wronged, Henry still listened to his mother. Nodding at her, he buried his head in his bowl and continued to eat.

Meanwhile, Myra was as stiff as a board. If a mosquito bit my neck, there would be small red dots, but why would a mosquito bite my neck? Other than the hickey Tony left on her neck earlier, she couldn't think of anything else. In an instant, her face became flushed. I knew his tender attitude toward me was bad news!

“Are you feeling hot? Why is your face so red?” the man beside her brazenly asked as if the marks on her neck had nothing to do with him. She shot him a glare then turned her head back around to eat.

Seeing the smirk on his lips as he looked affectionately at the woman next to him, Gemma almost broke the chopsticks in her hand. That meal was the most unappetizing meal she had ever had!

After dinner, Serena brought Henry away to do his homework while Sebastian followed Lisa out to the garden for a walk. Tony, Myra, and Gemma were the only ones left in the living room, as well as Mrs. Frye, who was in the kitchen.

Tony had work to do, but he still stayed by Myra's side. While she watched television, he sat beside her and worked on his laptop. Occasionally, they would exchange a few words with each other. They looked very affectionate and natural like a couple that had been together for many years.

On the other hand, Gemma was unable to join in at all. To be more specific, she wanted to join in their conversation, but every time she said something, the two of them ignored her on purpose. She was fuming with anger, but she couldn't bear to walk away at that moment.

She put up with it until Sebastian and Lisa returned. Even though Sebastian was rather shocked to find that she was still in the living room, he still said out of courtesy, "It's late now, Gemma. Why don't you stay here tonight—"

"Thank you so much, Old Master Hart," she interjected before Sebastian could finish. Smiling with her eyes, she said, "I just came back to Bradford City and everything feels so unfamiliar. I couldn't sleep properly at the hotel last night, but your place gives me a sense of familiarity, so I think I can finally sleep well tonight."

A subtle frown grew on his face. He only offered out of courtesy, but he was going to finish by telling her that he would ask the driver to take her back if she did not feel comfortable here. He did not think that she would willingly take him up on his offer.

When Lisa cast a side glance at him, he knew that she was unhappy. Pulling Lisa's hand tightly, he said, "Mrs. Frye, could you please get a guest room ready for Gemma?" With that, he quickly brought Lisa upstairs to appease her. After all, Lisa adored Tony the most. If Gemma messed with his feelings, Sebastian would probably be given a hard time by Lisa for days.

At the same time, Myra and Tony had clearly overheard their conversation. Frowning, Tony looked over at Gemma with a cold gaze. Myra then grasped his hand. "We have a lot of empty rooms anyway. Let her stay here if she wants to." She knew that the Hart Family favored her and that was more important than anything else. The more Gemma acted this way, the more she was making the Hart Family detest her.

Closing his laptop, Tony grabbed Myra as he stood up and headed for the stairs. On the way there, however, Gemma stood in Myra's path. Tony was at the front and Gemma had her back toward him. Therefore, he did not see the piercing and threatening gaze she had on Myra at that instance. To her dismay, Myra simply brushed her off and went around her to follow Tony upstairs.

At that, Gemma's expression sank even more.

Once inside the bedroom, Myra stared at him with an accusing look in her eyes. "If I didn't know you any better, I would have assumed that you blew her off from how hostile she was acting."

Most women would know to give up when a man blatantly showed his animosity toward her and was affectionate with another woman, especially when she knew that the man did not like her but someone else instead. In Gemma's case, however, she clearly became even more desperate. She held a grudge against Myra while resenting Tony at the same time.