

Standing before Love Chapter 252

Tony raised his eyebrows. He kissed her on the lips then proceeded to pull off his necktie. "Does seeing her make you unhappy? We can just ask Curtis to take her back."

Curtis was the Hart Family's personal driver.

Tony did not have much patience on minor matters. Watching him yank his necktie off, Myra stepped in and helped him untie it. "Old Master Hart already said she could stay." It wouldn't be appropriate if they asked Gemma to leave now.

"Then we'll leave." He squeezed her hand as she was loosening his necktie and kissed her on the forehead. "We'll go home if you don't want to see her. Old Master Hart and Old Madam Hart won't mind."

There was no limit to how much he spoiled her.

She felt touched by his words. Puffing her cheeks out, she shook her head and said, "Forget it. It's just for one night. She won't stay here permanently."

He let go of her hand to let her finish loosening his necktie. "Don't mind her. When Old Master Hart went to the United States, the Walton Family were the ones who welcomed him with open arms. It's just out of courtesy. He knows where to draw the line."

He was telling Myra that Sebastian was still on her side.

To be frank, if it was up to Tony, he wouldn't be so courteous to Gemma. To him, there were only two types of people: his people and outsiders. He did not concern himself with outsiders, and Gemma was clearly an outsider to him. It was only on some occasions when it had to do with his family and their reputation that he put up with it, but it was also on the condition that Gemma did not cross the line.

Part of his displays of affection downstairs was intentional and part of it was to remind Gemma of Myra's place in his life so she wouldn't mess with her so easily.

Oftentimes, however, a man did not understand a woman's heart.

While Tony went to take a shower in the bathroom, Myra was tidying up outside. She was suddenly reminded of the gifts they bought at the store today. Among the gifts, a few of the items belonged to her—the three pieces of lingerie that Tony bought for her at the lingerie store.

She quickly opened the room door and walked out. I can't let anyone see them. It would be so awkward.

After closing the room door, she turned around and bumped into Gemma who had been standing there since who knew when.

Tony's room was located at the end of the corridor on the second floor. It was rather out of the way and it was also a distance away from the other rooms, but the guest room Gemma was in happened to be right next to his.

Myra frowned slightly and was going to simply walk past Gemma.

Suddenly, Gemma took a step forward and blocked her from going any further.

"Miss Walton?" Myra calmly looked at the beautiful woman in front of her who had an unkind look in her eyes.

"Miss Stark. Twenty-four years old. The young lady who was kicked out of the Stark Family and married Sean Chase, the director of Chase Group in Bradford City, two years ago. Just over a month ago, you got a divorce and started dating Tony right away. You managed to get Hart Group's trusted designer from Chase Group for the Sunny Bay Project. The Elsinore Garden Project and the Blue Harbor Project were also fully funded by Hart Group. An undergraduate student who graduated from Bradford University—never studied abroad nor has any special talent."

After Myra's polite greeting, Gemma began to scorn and mock her. When she was done, she looked at Myra with a disdainful gaze. "Miss Stark, was anything I said false?"

Seeing how Gemma had found all her information in less than twenty minutes, Myra knew that she did not have good intentions. Chuckling, she said, "No, none of that was false. I just didn't know you were so interested in me, Miss Walton."

“Interested in you?” Gemma scoffed as though Myra just said something imprudent, but her eyes were dead serious. “To put it nicely, you’re quite outstanding, Miss Stark. In more crude words, you’ve put in quite a bit of effort to make your way up to the Hart Family. You started dating Tony right after your divorce from that man from the Chase Group. You’re quite capable, Miss Stark. I can’t help but admire you.”

“You’re flattering me, Miss Walton. Is there a reason you’re standing in my path? If there’s nothing else, please step aside.” Myra kept an indifferent smile on her face as though she did not understand Gemma.

Gemma narrowed her eyes.

Those pair of long and narrow eyes that curled up at the end was a distinctive feature in the Walton Family. They looked dazzling when she smiled but turned sharp when she narrowed them. Taking a step closer to Myra, she lost the smile and her eyes turned colder. “Do you like to feign ignorance, Miss Stark? Don’t you know I hate pretentious women the most? Tell me; what will it take for you to leave Tony? I’m sure you’re well aware of it yourself. Someone with your status and a used shoe that was thrown away by another man—sorry, I’m really straightforward. I can’t hold myself back. Please don’t mind me.”

Even though she apologized, there wasn’t a hint of an apologetic look in her eyes. Since Gemma was at the Hart Residence, she was already keeping her temper under control for the most part. Looking at Myra with jealousy and resentment in her eyes, she growled, “You must know that a person like you can only be a woman Tony messes around with. How can the Hart Family accept a woman like you into the family?”

“I don’t understand.” Myra was not angry at her. Instead, she chuckled and looked at Gemma who was glaring back at her. “Miss Walton, who are you to say those things to me? Are you a relative of the Hart Family or do you have a strong relationship with them? As far as I know, you’re just the younger sister of one of Tony’s past business partners.”

Her tone sounded calm—so calm that the last part of her sentence almost shattered the look on Gemma’s face.

“What did you say?” Gemma seethed in a low voice. She stared at Myra and scoffed, “Since you know about my brother’s relationship with Tony, you

should also know about my relationship with him. Myra, I've already asked you nicely. You better not make me do this the hard way."

"Are you telling me to leave Tony?" Myra shot an eyebrow up.

Gemma snickered. "If you're wise enough to leave, I can still give you some benefits. Don't wait until you get abandoned again later and be left with nothing."

Myra just sighed internally. What exactly is making her so confident that Tony will leave me and be with her in the end? I thought Tony's attitude today made it clear that he had rejected her. Who would have thought she would still say these things to me? "I heard you loud and clear, Miss Walton. Can you please let me through now?" She did not want to get tangled up with Gemma either. It was impossible to speak logically to women like her, so she might as well just ignore her.

Gemma's brows knitted together and her expression darkened even more. "What is this supposed to mean, Myra?"

"It doesn't mean anything," Myra replied. "I just feel like you should tell Tony all of this. Did you perhaps think he didn't know any of it?"

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"When would men find the time to tend to these things? Nevertheless, they will start to care sooner or later." Gemma stared straight into Myra's eyes. "To be honest, I'm quite surprised. If I were you, after getting abandoned, I would have hidden at home and not made a spectacle of myself. But, not only did you start working like nothing happened, you were even shameless enough to seduce Tony. Miss Stark, you are by far the most thick-skinned woman I have ever met."

"Likewise." Myra was indifferent.

Because Gemma was not getting a reaction from Myra, she was slowly losing her temper.

She was always the jewel of the family and had never suffered through any hardships before. Today, however, she was losing to a woman she did not believe was better than her in any aspect. The most aggravating part of it all

was that she was a divorced woman, but Tony was cherishing her like a prized possession.

“Myra, don’t embarrass yourself and don’t decline my offer. There will come a day when you will regret it!”

It was like an argument between children now with the one who was losing threatening to come after the other after school.

Myra smirked calmly back at her.

From every angle, it was clear that Gemma was a spoiled child, and Myra was not interested in wasting time on people like her.

When Myra was about to walk around her, she did not sense the slight change in Gemma’s expression. By the time she realized it, a slap was already whizzing toward her.

The color drained from Myra’s face. She was going to avoid it when a hand quickly reached out and grabbed Gemma’s hand right before it landed on her face. He clasped her hand in an instant and caused a cry of alarm to erupt throughout the whole villa.

Tony had come out of the bedroom at some point.

It was evident that he had just taken a shower as his hair was still wet. He was wearing a bathrobe, and the exposed parts of his body were covered in water droplets. His messy hair did not suppress his aura. In fact, it made him look even more alluring. At this moment, however, he looked very displeased; his black and deep eyes seemed even sharper after being splashed with water.

“How dare you cause a commotion in our house?” His voice was rather hoarse and carried a hint of anger. At the same time, he tightened his grip around her hand.

“Ah!” Gemma shrieked and looked at him again with slight fear in her eyes.

Even though Tony was not that friendly toward her when she came to the Hart Residence today, at least, he was not as cold as the night before which had secretly made her happy. Despite having had her mood ruined by Myra, she still knew on the inside that Tony would be with her in the end.

But, at this moment, her face had grown pale. He's deliberately embarrassing me in front of Myra.

"What's wrong?"

"What happened?"

Sebastian and Serena who had both returned to their rooms previously came out again and were looking at the three people.

Tony was still gripping Gemma's wrist. The immense strength he exerted made her feel as though the bones in her wrist were about to be crushed.

She was going to ask Sebastian for help when Tony dragged her by the wrist abruptly down the stairs. "It's nothing. I just have some things to discuss with Miss Walton."

He was being very rough and did not treat her as a woman at all. On the other hand, she did not have as much strength as he did. As he was dragging her down the stairs, she staggered many times but he didn't seem to notice.

Myra felt slightly bothered by the sight of Gemma staggering along, but she did not point it out to him. I'm not a saint. After how she treated me, why should I speak up for her?

Meanwhile, Sebastian and Serena could sort of guess what had happened. They consoled Myra for a bit then returned to their rooms as though they had not seen anything.

Gemma couldn't even ask them for help when everything she did tonight already made them fed up with her.

Once downstairs, Tony dragged her all the way to the garden outside while looking very displeased.

Myra was his bottom line and Gemma had obviously crossed his bottom line with her actions.

After they walked out the door of the villa, he flung the woman, with make-up stains running down her face from crying, toward the side of the fountain. With a dark expression, he said, "Listen carefully. You're not welcomed here anymore—neither at my place nor the Hart Residence."

He was going to go back inside when she threw herself at him, but before she could grab his hand, he stepped aside and avoided her as she came from behind him. When he turned around, his black eyes were devoid of any light. They were as dark as night and extremely sharp. “Your brother doesn’t have any privileges, and you even less so.”

He did not lay a finger on women, but it did not mean that he would give them a chance to throw themselves at him.

While Gemma was being dragged down the stairs, her eyes had already turned red as she was crying. Presently, they were also puffy.

Unwilling to accept defeat, she bellowed at him, “I was with you first. I met you first. I was the one who stayed by your side! Why does it have to be her in the end? Open your eyes, Tony. She’s just a woman who was left by another man. What’s so great about her? She’s not right for you at all!”

“What’s so great about you?” His sullen expression carried darkness, and his voice made people tremble with fear.

She took a couple of steps back and looked at the man in front of her in disbelief. “You... you know how much I like you... My family background is better than Myra’s. I’m prettier and more talented than her. I’ve never had another man in my life! I can help you in your business, but she can only depend on you for everything! My brother already told you that if you married me, you will get twenty percent of the Walton Family’s shares as dowry!”

He snickered. “Twenty percent of the Walton Family’s shares?” Even though he was laughing, at the short distance she was from him, she could see that it did not reach his eyes and his face was filled with contempt. “I always get what I want with my own efforts. What do you think twenty percent of the Waltons’ shares means to me?”

Even if she gave him the entire Walton Family, he would simply brush it off.

Looking at a conceited Tony, she was clearly hurt and humiliated by his words, but she still couldn’t help but feel drawn to him.

Wasn’t she first infatuated with him because of his overbearing nature and capabilities? If he was the kind of man who liked to live off the back of someone else, how would he have gained her attention?

The rest of the Hart Family might be different, she thought. The higher their family's social standing grows, and the more extensive their network gets, the more stable their life would become! They might not think the same way as Tony.

She clenched her fists. "Tony, you will regret saying these things to me one day! Myra, that woman, only cares about your family background. I heard she used to be madly in love with Sean Chase from Chase Group. How could she shift her feelings over to you so soon? Don't let her deceive you."

The frown on his forehead deepened as he listened to Gemma. After shooting a cold glance at her, he turned around and went back inside.

She wanted to follow after him, but as soon as she went up the steps to go into the villa, he slammed the door and nearly hit her nose.

Boiling with rage, she almost shredded her own palms with her nails.

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"Tony, you will regret this one day! You will definitely regret this!" Gemma pounded on the door. When no one responded to her, she left the Hart Residence in a rage.

She thought she would get to stay at the Hart Residence today, but she was kicked out so miserably. Despite feeling resentful, she did not have a choice. A moment ago, Sebastian and Serena clearly saw the way Tony treated her, but they stayed silent.

She's better than I thought. She managed to buy over all the people in the Hart Family. How on earth did she do it? Gemma looked at the main gate of the Hart Residence one last time. I will rightfully live here one day, and I will kick that wench out of Bradford City once and for all!

...

Once Tony went back inside, Myra had also just retrieved the bag of things.

The other presents had been claimed and only this bag was left by the side of the couch in the living room.

When she saw it, her face turned bright red. She also gave Tony a look when she saw him before heading up the stairs.

As he watched her walk away unhappily, his long and narrow eyebrows shot up. He took a few steps forward and held her by the waist. She tried to avoid him, but even when she couldn't, she did not struggle to break free.

Once they entered the bedroom, she tossed the things in the bag on top of his head. "Tony, I'm positive you made Henry bring everything from the trunk inside on purpose!"

She was rendered speechless by his harsh nature.

After that, she went straight into the bathroom.

Tony brought down Myra's brand new lingerie from his head and narrowed his eyes. Did I do it on purpose?

"Myra, it's not good to always falsely accuse me." He chuckled to himself. The angrier she got, the more he seemed to enjoy it and it even showed on his face.

...

Kris returned after just being away for three to four days. Although Myra did not know what she went out to do, it was evident that she was in a better mood after making the trip.

Indeed, she was in a good mood.

Kris told people that she was out for a business trip in the United States, but in reality, she had gone to meet that man.

Apart from Tony, there isn't a man I can't handle. It's only been one night but that man is already being so clingy.

She had already taken care of the matter her mother told her to.

The first thing she did upon returning was walk into Cameron's office.

As soon as he saw her enter his office, his expression darkened. "Get out!" he ordered bluntly.

Her eyes narrowed. Ever since she and her mother's plan got exposed last time, they fell out of favor with him. While she was kicked out of the Stark Residence, her mother was confined to the house and only managed to leave one time.

Kris hated how merciless he was. She was his daughter, but he was not treating her as he should treat a daughter. Despite having spent more than twenty years by his side, he did not give her and her mother even a small portion of the Stark Group's shares. The only thing she had was her title as Project Department Director, but it was still only on paper.

Perhaps to Cameron, as his daughter, she was not worth entrusting everything to—hence the reason he had anticipated the child her mother was carrying. It's a shame that child was never able to come into this world!

After suppressing the anger and resentment inside her, she forced a wronged and pitiful smile on her face. "Dad, I know I was wrong. I did a lot of thinking in my time away from home, and I admit that we were too desperate at the time, but we were also doing it for you. Ah!"

A teacup flew mercilessly in her direction. Shrieking out of surprise, she quickly avoided it but the force of the teacup still left a white slit across her face that began to heat up in an instant.

"You know you were wrong? No, Kris. You will never know what you did wrong! If it wasn't for that mother of yours who had stayed by my side all these years, do you think you can still show up here as a member of the Stark Family?"

Her expression shifted slightly before she looked disconcerted again. "Dad... I know we went too far last time. We shouldn't have kept you in the dark, but we didn't have a choice either. We wanted to help you bring Myra down first, then tell you about it. Since that child was never born, we couldn't have used him for anything."

Her eyes were turning red as though she was wronged but she was still trying to be a strong daughter.

Cameron snickered. "Couldn't use him for anything? Is twenty percent of the Stark Group's shares enough for you? Kris, both you and your mother planned it very well. Were you going to take all my shares from me then tell me later that the child did not survive?"

Kris clenched her two hands by her sides.

“Dad, whether you believe us or not, Mom and I were only doing it for you. I admit that we were wrong, but to prevent Myra from catching on to any flaws, we had no choice but to keep it a secret from you. We planned to tell you after we kicked her out of the Stark Group. You can see for yourself how arrogant she is at the company now. With Tony helping her, Stark Group is in great danger, Dad.”

“I know exactly what to do with the company.” Cameron was obviously still mad and was looking at her with a chilly gaze. “If I have a son, the company will surely go to him. But I only have two useless daughters! Kris, you know that Myra and I don’t see eye to eye, but that is only while I’m still alive. She is still my daughter like you are or perhaps even more rightfully so. I don’t care what you want to do with her, but you shouldn’t push my boundaries!”

“I know I was wrong, Dad.” The expression on her face changed. Suddenly, she drew in a deep breath and began to shed tears. “Dad, I admit I have a selfish desire for Stark Group. But Dad, Mom and I were the only ones who were by your side all these years. Myra and her mother did not care about you one bit! Have you forgotten what Myra’s mother once did to you? Dad... I never wanted to take your shares from you. After all, I am your daughter; I know you would never treat me unfairly! I just don’t want to see Myra acquire all of your shares! Dad, you’re still at the prime of your life; you can still lead Stark Group even further. But Myra won’t think twice about this! Do you know that?”

She hesitated for a moment. After making up her mind, she gritted her teeth and uttered, “Grandpa had a will. He was completely biased and did not give you Stark Group. In his will, the immediate beneficiary of Stark Group is Myra.”

Seeing the shock in Cameron’s eyes, she felt pleased on the inside.

She kept this secret for a very long time thinking she never had to reveal it, but in the end, she had to let Cameron know.

He had already succeeded in his pursuit of attaining full authority. How could he willingly let someone strip away his power over Stark Group while he was still alive?

“I eavesdropped on Mr. Engelhard of Ritz Carlton and heard him say it himself. Mr. Engelhard has the will in his possession, but it could very well be in Myra’s hands now. That’s why she always acts so brazenly in the Stark Group!”

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Kris came to know about the will from Lyla, except she heard a different story from what she eavesdropped!

“Dad, I didn’t think Myra would be a threat to us, so I didn’t take it seriously, but she came on so strong this time. She casually exposed our plan to kick her out last time. Not to mention, she even made you punish us severely! Dad, I don’t know how true Tony’s feelings are for her, but for as long as they are together, he will help her! Ever since she entered the Stark Group, everything has gone smoothly for her. She’s even doing an impressive job in her position as general manager while we got defeated again! Can’t you see it? She wants to get me and mom away from you, then go after you when you’re alone!”

Kris spoke extensively in one breath, but if it had to do with Myra’s ambition, she did not mind instilling it in his mind once more.

Almost everyone knew Myra’s goal in returning to the Stark Group, including Cameron.

He let her back in at the time for the assets she held, but he did not realize that she was harder to fool than he had imagined. She was no longer the little girl who only knew how to keep things in. Not only did she have Conan’s support, but she also had Tony’s help. In the end, they failed to get anything out of her and only lost more on their end.

As Cameron listened to Kris, his face slowly sank to an all-time low.

Even if he loathed Kris and her mother, Kris was right. Myra was standing in opposition with him. She resented her own father and only wanted to take the company away from him. At this moment, the only people he could trust were Kris and her mother. Myra also has the will Old Master Stark passed down...

“D*mn it!” The veins at his temple were bulging. That old man always protected Myra and that woman, but he never stopped to think that I am his

son and just left the entire Stark Group to that wench. “Are you sure this will be real?” He stared at Kris’ eyes to see if they would give something away.

His eyes were filled with anger and an unfathomable emotion as though he would make them pay if they lied to him again.

Kris felt a shudder under his pressuring stare but still gritted her teeth and said, “It’s real!”

Lyla did not have a reason to lie to her at the time. She couldn’t have made this up out of thin air either. At the time, if it wasn’t because Myra would inherit the Stark Group that would eventually fall into Eve’s son’s hands, Kris couldn’t think of another reason Eve would treat Myra so warmly.

In an instant, the anger in Cameron’s eyes subsided and he became calm. Looking up, he gazed at Kris and said, “Since you’re back now, you should rest first. Don’t fall behind on work.”

His tone of voice also changed dramatically. From the look in his eyes, she knew that he believed her.

She felt smug. The expression on her face also softened. “Dad, I told you before. Mom and I will always be on your side. I didn’t go to the United States purely for work this time but for your business in the future.”

“Oh? Tell me about it, Krissy.” It hadn’t been ten minutes yet, but Cameron was already back to calling her in the affectionate way he used to instead of addressing her spitefully as ‘Kris’. This time, she truly felt relieved. Her face started to blush, and she looked at him bashfully. “Dad, do you know the Walton Group?”

Something flickered across his eyes before he smirked meaningfully. “You mean the Walton Group that flourished in Bradford City at one point and wasn’t even inferior to Hart Group before moving to the United States to expand? I heard recently that they intend to move the company back to Bradford City to continue expanding.”

Giving him a nod, she tucked a loose strand of hair behind her ear and revealed her flushed cheeks. “Gideon Walton has been pursuing me lately. When I went to the United States this time, we pretty much made our relationship steady. He says that once he comes back to Bradford City, he will propose to me! Dad...” She looked up at him with earnest eyes. “I asked him

to tell you himself. After all, you are my father. If you're not happy with him, even if I like him, I won't go against your wishes."

Cameron observed his daughter without a change in expression, but a storm was already taking place within him.

He heard the news about the Walton Group recently and knew that their development prospects in the United States were not good. Thus, they decided to return to Bradford City. Despite that, they still had a strong presence in Bradford City. Kris did not have any chances of marrying into the Hart Family now, but it wouldn't be a bad option if she hitched her wagon to the Walton Family. Moreover, the Hart Family and the Walton Family had a good relationship.

Cameron also heard that the Walton Family was interested in Bradford City's Central Square project which he was interested in himself.

"You have a good eye, Krissy." His eyebrows shot up. The anger in his eyes when she first stepped into his office was long gone now and replaced with a look of praise. He walked away from his office desk toward her and patted her on the shoulder lovingly. "You're very thoughtful, Krissy. I was too stubborn before and failed to see you and your mother's efforts. Why don't you move back in today? Your mother misses you too."

She gripped her hands tightly. Finally, I have his trust again!

"Dad, I miss you and Mom too," she replied sweetly.

He glanced at her. Even though she's a little bit ignorant, at least she made a smart move this time. I also need people that I can trust.

He patted her shoulder again.

When Kris came out of Cameron's office, she happened to bump into Myra who was going in with some documents for him to sign.

Since Kris managed to gain his trust back, her ambition also started to grow again. She scoffed at Myra then left that floor with her nose in the air.

Myra watched her from behind with narrowed eyes.

...

“What are you thinking about?”

After getting into Tony’s car after work, Myra had her brows furrowed in deep thought the whole way.

He turned his head over to look at her from time to time but she didn’t seem to notice.

When she heard his voice, she shook her head and looked at him. “I don’t know how to explain it either. I just feel like something is a bit off.”

“Tell me.” His eyebrows shot up. He did not like it when she kept things from him.

After pondering for a moment, she looked back at him and started, “I have a feeling Kris’ business trip to the United States this time was a cover-up. It feels like she went to look for someone in the Walton Family...” Seeing the half-smile on Tony’s face, she started to blush. “Never mind. I might be overthinking.”

In the lobby of the Stark Group the other day, she overheard them mention the Walton Family. Nonetheless, there were tons of Waltons around, so it didn’t necessarily mean that they were talking about Gemma’s family.

Letting go of the steering wheel with one hand, he grasped her hand and gave it a light squeeze. In his deep and alluring voice, he said, “Even if she did look for the Walton Family, it’s nothing to worry about.”

Outside of her field of vision, a look of mockery flashed across his eyes. Easing to a stop at the traffic light, he pulled her in and kissed her on the forehead. “Are you planning on standing at the top and ruling over the world once you get the Stark Group?”

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Tony was teasing, but it left Myra baffled.

The thought never occurred to her.

She was just unhappy; unhappy that Cameron, Kris, and Rachel were slowly pushing her to the edge after she entered the Stark Group.

But Tony knew about the will. In the end, the Stark Group would belong to Myra, and he was going to help her secure it. That was his deal with Conan.

Pondering on it, Myra tapped her fingers in his hand then shook her head. “I don’t know.”

She did not like doing business. The only reason she worked in Chase Group in the past was to help Sean. After that, she returned to work in Stark Group to claim back what originally belonged to her mother.

Personally, she did not enjoy getting involved in complicated matters. Once she got what she wanted, she really did not know what she would do. With her personality, she just wanted an easy-going job to help kill time. If she had to continue working in Stark Group and face the people she disliked, her life would become futile.

Seeing the deep frown on her face, Tony let go of her hand and massaged the side of her forehead. His deep laughter was filled with adoration. “You don’t have to keep thinking about it if you don’t know. Worry about it when the time comes.”

His long and slender fingers were beautiful. Looking at his sturdy build, the lines on the side of his handsome face, and the smile on the corner of his lips that was a rare sight to other people, she suddenly blurted, “Tony, why are you so nice to me?”

They had only known each other for around three months, but he made her feel as if he had known her from very early on.

He spoiled her without any limits, but the way he spoiled her felt completely natural as though they were a couple that had been together for many years. It fascinated her. Sometimes, in the dead of the night, she couldn’t stop herself from overthinking and wondering why he treated her so well.

She was not going to believe what Lyla told her about Sean—that such a benign and open-hearted man would have bad intentions toward her. From her point of view, there was nothing he could plot against her, and he was not that kind of person to start with.

Nevertheless, she still felt slightly perturbed. It was like having a piece of pastry fall from the sky right in front of her when she was famished.

Tony looked at her big and clear eyes that were staring back at him with doubt, uneasiness, nervousness, and worry. When he felt her hand suddenly tightening around his, he smirked briefly then raised his eyebrows at her. “You don’t want me to be nice to you?”

“You know what I mean!” He always plays it down and changes the topic. She pinched his hand unhappily.

His hand was wide, dry, and warm. In the space between his thumb and index finger was a thin callus that somehow gave a sense of security.

He chuckled when he saw that she was glaring at him. His laughter was deep. She always thought his voice sounded very pleasant. Listening to his laughter now, she couldn’t help but feel weak. As she played with his big hand, she murmured, “Did you know me before this? Or…” She looked up at his handsome face—at those profound and black eyes. “Have we met once before?”

We must have met at some point. How could it be love at first sight?

She wanted to ask him this question last time, but he simply brushed it off.

This time, she persisted by keeping her eyes on him.

The best feature on Myra’s face was her eyes. When she looked straight at someone, there seemed to be a vast ocean in her eyes. They looked calm and gentle.

Under her gaze, he unknowingly tightened his hand around the steering wheel and narrowed his eyes. “Why are you suddenly asking me this question? Don’t you know whether we’ve met before?”

She pursed her lips. I don’t remember having met him before, but how can that be? He makes it seem as though we’ve known each other for a long time.

“I’ve met you before.” Under her silent and pressing gaze, he gave in and told her calmly.

She felt her heart skip a beat. So it’s true! “When did you meet me? Why don’t I remember?” she asked urgently.

The lights were green now. As traffic slowly began to move, he quickly started the engine and followed the flow of traffic.

Something flickered across his eyes when he heard Myra, and he narrowed them to a dangerous degree.

She had obviously noticed it, but her curiosity made her want to know more.

Seeing her stare at him, he let out a scoff and said, "At the bar. You heroically helped those two people block a wine bottle."

He did not give much away, but she immediately knew what he was talking about.

Helping two people block the wine bottle at the bar was something she had done only once in her life. It happened a few years ago when she was still in university. She had followed Sean to a bar and saw him and Lyla arguing with another group of people. When Sean was trying to protect Lyla from the wine bottle, she felt a sudden burst of courage and went up to push the both of them aside.

At the time, she had lost consciousness right away so she did not remember what had happened. She assumed that Sean had taken her to the hospital himself, but later, she heard that it was a stranger. She was not that interested in other men back then except for Sean. Therefore, aside from feeling grateful toward that stranger, she did not take it too seriously.

However, after hearing Tony, she asked, "Were you the one who sent me to the hospital?" She looked in bewilderment at the man next to her who was focused on driving.

He quickly turned over and glanced at her, but he did not nod or shake his head.

Nevertheless, she already knew the answer.

The stranger who sent her to the hospital at the time was, in fact, Tony. She had lost consciousness and was unaware of everything. No wonder he knows me, but I don't know him.

Soon, she became embarrassed.

When he met her back then, she was in a bad state. Even though she did not even know Tony then, she still displayed her deep love for Sean in front of him.

Moreover, the night she stayed at the Hart Residence, she somehow dreamed of what happened at the bar.

She suddenly felt rather uneasy. Clearing her throat, she started, "Um... Thanks for taking me to the hospital."

He scoffed at her.

It was the second time that night. That short laugh carried a vague and unidentifiable feeling that made her even more distressed. My curiosity got the better of me! But I still got the answer I wanted.

Turning over to look at Tony's well-defined and neat side profile once again, she felt a surge of happiness. Disregarding his aloof nature, she clasped his hand and asked, "Tony, did you already fall for me then?"

He cast a side glance at her without responding.

On the other hand, perhaps no one would have believed him if he said that, in fact, it was at that point, because of those eyes, that he developed those mysterious feelings for her.

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At the time, Tony did not know what those feelings were.

Knowing that she was the granddaughter of Old Master Stark, he unintentionally formed a business relationship with Old Master Stark but later found his actions to be too immature. At the same time, his business overseas was starting to improve. It was the busiest time for him, so he couldn't get distracted by some feelings that he was unable to figure out.

He was a smart man, but sometimes, he was still a bit slow-witted.

By the time he figured everything out, Myra was already deeply in love with another man. Soon after that, the news of her marriage was released.

In that dark night, an emotion flickered across his black eyes.

For some reason, Myra did not like seeing him with that expression. Leaning across suddenly, she placed a kiss on his cheek. "Two people who are meant to be will always end up together."

No matter how tangled up she was with Sean, at the end of the day, she was not meant to be with him. Meanwhile, she and Tony had been so far away and spent a long time apart from each other, but they still ended up together. There are just some things that have already been predetermined, she thought.

Certainly, she still did not know how much Tony went through just so they could walk on the same path.

Meanwhile, it was probably the kiss that eased his mood. Grabbing her hand tightly, he asked, "Are you hungry?"

She felt her stomach. "I wasn't before, but now that you mention it, I think I am a little hungry."

"Do you want to eat seafood tonight?"

He knew that she was especially fond of seafood and strong-flavored foods. She was the kind of person who found the food to be bland if it was not spicy.

In contrast, Tony did not like seafood. The food he ate was mostly light and simple. At first, Myra did not know about this because he always brought her to eat seafood and ordered strong-flavored foods. She assumed that it fit his tastes too. A few times after that, she noticed that he would barely eat anything and was always busy removing shells for her.

She shook her head. "My body feels a bit heaty lately. Why don't we go home and make some congee and side dishes?"

A gentle smile flashed across his eyes. Squeezing her hand, he replied, "Okay."

Before she could say anything else, her phone started to ring. Taking a look at it, she was taken aback to see that it was Estelle, whom she had not heard from in a while, and proceeded to answer right away.

As soon as she picked up, she heard Estelle wailing over the phone. "Myra! Myra! Are we best friends?"

“Of course. What happened?” Even though she did not know the situation with Estelle, it seemed like she was trying to escape from something.

“If we’re best friends, then hurry over to No. 18 Villa on Sun Avenue!”

Estelle spoke very quickly. Myra could even hear a man’s sweet and familiar voice beside her. “Is that man your target tonight?”

“Ah! Stop coming closer to me, Shawn! I made it clear to you that it’s over between us! We can marry whoever we want. Anything I do is none of your business either! If you’re smart, then let me go at once or I will report you for kidnapping!”

“Estelle, you’re drunk.”

“Shawn, you monster. What the h*ll are you doing? Whether I’m drunk or not has nothing to do with you in the first place. Myra is going to be here soon!”

Looking at the man in front of her with his eyes narrowed sharply, Estelle regretted for the thousandth time for provoking this demon.

If she had known that the consequence of her provocation was being unable to escape from his hold, she wouldn’t have seduced him even if she got beaten to death.

“Help me, Myra! Come here quickly. If you don’t save me, I’m going to get killed! Shawn is a psychopath. He will torture me to death!” Estelle wanted to continue wailing when suddenly, the man in front of her took her phone away.

“Miss Stark, is Tony beside you?”

Myra was puzzled and answered without thinking, “Yes.”

“Can you hand the phone over to him?”

She immediately handed Tony the phone. “It’s Deputy Mayor Hart.”

At that moment, she had clearly forgotten that Estelle was the one who called her.

Hearing the voice over the phone, Estelle, who had her phone taken away from her, only wanted to cry. “Give me my phone back, Shawn!”

“Behave yourself!” He held both her hands down with one hand while he held the phone steadily in the other as he talked to Tony.

Myra looked on nervously at the two men talking to each other on the phone.

In the beginning, Myra did not support the idea of Estelle seducing Shawn. He was not the kind of man that she had experience with. If Estelle was not sincere, she would only be digging her own grave. At the time, however, Myra was unable to salvage her own marriage, and she did not think that Estelle would actually seduce Shawn. Thus, this situation was truly giving her a headache.

Does she not like Shawn? If she really doesn't like him, then she would've called her brother, Charles, instead. But if she does like him, then why is she trying to escape from him all the time? Myra frowned.

She did not know what Shawn said to Tony over the phone, but Tony only gave him a brief response before ending the call.

“Should we go over to Shawn's place to check things out?” she asked knowing that the address Estelle reported earlier was Shawn's place.

Casting a side glance at her, Tony did not slow down the car and simply said, “We agreed to make home-cooked food tonight. Is Estelle that important?”

Isn't she? Myra wondered. Upon seeing the serious look on Tony's face, she did not blurt that question out. To Tony, other people's business was just not important.

“Will things end badly?” She tried to keep it in, but she still couldn't eventually.

Seeing how uneasy she looked, he let out a sigh. If I don't make this clear to her, she is going to be restless tonight.

“Shawn wants to take Estelle back to the Hart Residence and finalize their engagement,” he said.

Alas, quite frankly, Tony did not think that Shawn would choose to marry that woman.

When he saw that Myra was dumbfounded, he went on, "Don't you know your friend's personality? How much longer is she going to keep fooling around for?"

Myra was not speaking at all now.

Estelle did like to fool around. Whenever she had a target, she would say that he was her final one. It was obvious, however, that she was still having the time of her life fooling around. Her temper was also a great concern to Charles. He set up countless blind dates for her in the past, but she blew each one of them off. They did not expect her to start going on those blind dates as she was told after meeting Shawn. I... I don't know how to explain it either.

Between the lines, however, Myra could see that Estelle did have some feelings for Shawn. While Myra was still deep in thought, Tony was already holding her hand. "Shawn won't mess around. You don't have to worry."

That made her feel a whole lot more at ease.

Even if she did not quite understand Shawn, she still trusted Tony.

Nevertheless, a man's definition of not messing around might vary from that of a woman's.

...

In Shawn's villa, after he finally let Estelle go, she was already drained of all energy; she did not even have the strength to lift a finger.

On the other hand, the man who had more than enough to eat and drink was in high spirits.

The thought of the doctor and nurse game she was forced to play with him last night made her face turn bright red. She only despised herself for not severing his manhood into pieces earlier.

"Get up, Shawn!" She had to gasp for air between each sentence. Nudging the man on top of her, she muttered, "You're too heavy."

He lifted his handsome face and looked straight at her.

The faint rays of moonlight seeped in from outside. As he was looking at her, he narrowed his eyes slightly. He gave off a piercing gaze except there was

also a hint of idleness in them—perhaps due to being completely stuffed. Lowering his head, he placed a kiss on her forehead. “Stop fussing now, love. Do you want it again?”

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As he spoke, his hands roamed around as he touched Estelle.

Estelle’s face was beet red, and she used all her strength to ruthlessly slap the man’s misbehaving hands away. Gritting her teeth, she spat out, “You wish! Get your filthy hands off of me!”

“Well, it seems like you know me quite well, Estelle. In that case...” His hands had already left her body, but he suddenly turned back, and the corners of his lips curled up. “There’s still a lot of time left tonight, so why don’t we continue... What do you say?”

“You son of a b*tch!” Estelle cursed as she glared at the nasty man in front of her.

If she had known this man’s true nature, even if someone gave her a boost of courage, she wouldn’t have dared to provoke him!

Now, she was beyond regretful!

Taking deep breaths, Estelle managed to calm herself. She restrained herself from slapping the man’s face, which should’ve looked indifferent but currently contained a touch of scorn instead.

“Shawn, return my phone to me!”

Shawn abruptly narrowed his eyes, and a hint of danger filled his gaze. “Why? Do you still want to call the person you went on a blind date with today?”

“It’s none of your business!” Estelle grunted, then reached for the phone on the bedside table.

Shawn, however, was one step faster and got hold of her phone.

Noticing how furious she was, he chuckled, then placed a peck on her lips before slowly turning on her phone and saying, “Estelle, have you forgotten

what I said to you just now? I can ignore what happened last time, but what happens after... Hehe."

He gave a light laugh, but his gaze was so intense that it was hard not to look at him.

As she thought of how he stopped during the most heated moment to torture her and force her to agree to those matters, Estelle's face was flushed!

"You..." Estelle glared at him, then rolled her eyes. Knowing that Shawn was a man of his word, she quickly changed her methods and pouted. "I just want to call Myra. Will you please give me my phone?"

Shawn simply let out a low chuckle and wrapped his fingers around Estelle's long hair while patting her pink cheeks. "Miss Stark probably doesn't have time to talk to you right now."

Estelle felt a little helpless, but she hissed through gritted teeth, "Shawn, you have no right to deprive me of my rights. I said that I don't want to be with you! Don't you understand human language?"

Shawn's slender eyes narrowed instantly, and the darkness pooling inside them was as black as ink. Usually, when he acted like this, Estelle knew that he was angry.

Whenever he got angry, the consequences were severe!

Estelle shrank back. Just as she was wondering how to quickly extinguish his anger, the man in front of her suddenly displayed a touch of helplessness and... affection!

If Estelle wasn't mistaken, he was doting on her!

"Estelle, tell me. Why don't you want to go back to the Hart Residence with me? If you don't want to marry me now, we can just get engaged. Wouldn't that be okay?"

While Estelle was in a dazed state, Shawn had already pulled her into an embrace.

His eyes contained a deep and unwavering sense of tenderness, which momentarily made Estelle forget about his true nature. Holding her hands out

to push his chest away, she stammered, “W-wait... Why should I go back to the Hart Residence with you... And... why should I get engaged to you?”

When her hands came into contact with Shawn’s chest, the heat was so intense that she hurriedly drew her hands back.

If Shawn was acting beastly, Estelle could still make a scene, but currently, Shawn... She silently chided herself for having absolutely no strength to fight against him when he was being like this!

Shawn saw how bold and righteous Estelle was from the beginning, and how her eyes darted back and forth as she began blushing a little.

When Estelle wasn’t looking, Shawn slightly narrowed his eyes. He had to admit that Elliot’s secret courting methods were certainly effective.

He gave Estelle a gentle smile, rendering her completely stunned.

Shawn was a little amused. Lowering his head, he placed another peck on her lips. Then, he gently wrapped his arms around her body and ignored her protests as he gripped her hands. “Estelle, aren’t you afraid of others coming to steal me?”

“Steal you... I can’t wait for someone to take you away!” Estelle’s soul had almost left her body, but she persisted stubbornly.

“But, I’m afraid that someone will steal you, Estelle...” Shawn’s voice was low, and his hot breath was blowing on her neck, causing her whole body to shudder a little.

One of his hands suddenly moved downward while the other held up Estelle’s chin. In a flash, his thin lips covered hers and he began to entangle himself with her.

“Let’s get engaged first, okay?” His movements were soft but arousing.

Estelle felt as if she was floating on clouds; about to forget everything. She kept her mouth shut and remained silent.

“You can’t let me treat you unjustly, right? I’m already thirty-seven. Estelle, don’t you know how my family threatens me? But, I only like you...” Muttering these passionate words, Shawn fixed his warm gaze on her.

Perhaps Estelle didn't notice, but even though she said she didn't like him, her body's honest reaction showed how much she depended on him.

"You only like... me?" Estelle's vision turned blurry.

"Yes, I only like you, Estelle. So, get engaged to me first, okay?" Shawn patiently induced.

Estelle's brows were tightly furrowed, and she seemed to be struggling violently and hesitating. Shawn, however, was patient as he kissed her, and he stretched out a hand to smoothen the crease between her eyebrows.

Gradually, Estelle exhaled as if she was giving up, then suddenly turned around. "Fine! We'll get engaged! But, if I find out that you go around looking for other women while we're engaged, then I'll definitely hang you up and castrate you!"

A smile appeared on Shawn's face, and he felt like he had prevailed. Tilting Estelle's head downward, he placed his thin lips on hers. "What a demanding little sprite!"

"Ahh..."

Estelle tightly grasped the phone in her hand, and her face was twisted into a horrifying expression. "I can't believe that heartless bastard, Shawn, actually made me say such things last night! Myra, you're heartless as well! It's your fault for not coming to save me! Everything's great now. I promised to get engaged to Shawn, but how can I? Now, he has a death grip on me. After the engagement, I can already imagine how miserable I'm going to be..."

It was almost noon when Estelle finally got out of bed.

Undoubtedly, Shawn had already gone to work at this hour.

She was supposed to guest star on a show today, but now that she had so many hickeys at the base of her neck, she had to put off the invitation. Feeling down, she called Myra.

Myra felt a little guilty. Last night, she had indeed 'carelessly' betrayed her friend.

She coughed lightly, then, in an attempt to comfort her friend, she said, “Estelle, in the first place, didn’t you say that you can’t have anyone other than Deputy Mayor Hart? In fact, I think that those ex-boyfriends of yours aren’t as good as him. Not to mention, next time, you might not be able to meet someone like him. So, why can’t you be with him?”

“Why should I be with him?!” As Estelle thought of how wicked that man was, her heart tightened. “I admit that I can’t contain a man like Shawn. Men who can’t be contained are like clouds, and you know that I like the feeling of having everything under my control.”

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Myra was quiet for a moment. Estelle had always been domineering and headstrong, but for Shawn to be the weaker party in their relationship just seemed... impossible.

All of a sudden, she asked a little cautiously, “Estelle, have you... not forgotten that person?”

There was a moment of silence on the other end of the phone, then Estelle’s unrecognizable voice sounded. “Myra, what are you talking about? I don’t want to be with Shawn. I don’t have anything to do with him at all, okay? If you hadn’t just mentioned that person, I would’ve completely forgotten about him. Shawn and I... I just don’t think we’re suitable for each other!”

“How are you not suitable?!” Myra exclaimed.

Estelle took a deep breath. “He’s one of the law-abiding renowned figures, and his future is bright. He... Anyway, he would never have a relationship with a measly actress like me.”

“I don’t think that’s the case.” Myra raised her eyebrows.

In the beginning, when Tony wanted to be with her, she had a lot of concerns.

Women tended to contemplate more than men. They would consider all kinds of issues, but from a man’s point of view, there was only one question—‘will you be with me?’

“Deputy Mayor Hart minds that you’re an actress?” Myra asked. She knew that Estelle liked her job very much, albeit being born the impressive daughter of a rich family.

“Not really...” Estelle muttered. Feeling that admitting this was helping Shawn, she quickly added, “But, he’s always troubling me and preventing me from filming flirtatious scenes, which is disturbing my career! And it makes me very—”

“Charles doesn’t like Shawn?” Myra interrupted, ignoring her desperate remarks.

Estelle replied somewhat unhappily, “Of course, Charles likes him. As a profiteer, how could he not like him—”

“You don’t like Deputy Mayor Hart?” Myra’s expression remained unchanged as she interrupted her once again.

Estelle was a little frantic now. “I didn’t say I don’t like him, but—”

“Then, isn’t it settled?” Myra thought, It’s just as I expected. She likes Deputy Mayor Hart. “Estelle, if you’re worried about something, why don’t you talk it out with him? It’s possible that what you think is a problem is not a problem to him at all.”

Similarly, in the beginning, Myra kept thinking that she shouldn’t be with Tony because of her identity, and she thought that his family would come in their way.

But, in fact, Tony didn’t care, and his family treated her very well.

“Oh, you don’t understand!” Estelle was growing a little restless. She was rushing to the city hall, and after getting out of the car, she walked directly toward Shawn’s office. She wanted to have a good chat with him and take back everything she said last night!

“That’s it for now. I have something to do, so I can’t talk anymore. We’ll talk later.”

Looking at the office door before her, Estelle took a deep breath as mixed emotions appeared in her eyes.

She pushed open the door and was about to let loose everything she wanted to say, but upon seeing the scene in front of her, her expression changed in an instant.

At this moment, Shawn was standing next to his desk, and a graceful woman stood leaning against him. Nearly her entire person was nestled in his arms, and she currently had her hands on his tie.

The woman seemed alarmed by the sound of the door opening behind her, and she quickly turned to take a look. When she saw who the visitor was, the woman was no longer panicky, and a knowing smile appeared on her face.

“Estelle?” The woman squinted.

“Kris...” Estelle’s face dropped as she went straight into the office, not forgetting to reach behind to close the office door. Taking just a few steps, she stood before Shawn and Kris.

When she saw Shawn’s tightly knitted brows and his lowered gaze, the fire in Estelle’s stomach rose abruptly.

“Why the f*ck are your hands there, huh?! Hurry up and let him go!” Estelle stared at Kris’ hands on Shawn’s tie, which she found to be an eyesore, and wanted nothing more than to chop them off!

Last night, he obviously said that he only likes me... Yet, now he’s getting entangled with another woman! It wouldn’t be that bad if the woman had class, but how could it be this b*tch, Kris!

Estelle’s eyes seemed to be blazing with flames as she fixed Shawn with a burning glare.

However, this incident between Kris and Shawn could be said to be an accident.

Kris had come to the city hall today to rescind the application for the Central Square project that the Stark Group had sent in some time ago.

She had seen Tony many times before, but she had only seen Shawn a few times. During those few times, she was always in a hurry. Today, she realized that Shawn looked somewhat similar to Tony. Just like Tony, Shawn was unbelievably handsome! What was more important was that Shawn’s

character and temperament were to Kris' liking. It gave her the idea that even if she couldn't get Tony, getting Shawn would be just as good.

The two were originally talking about the Central Square project, but Kris clearly had other intentions. When Shawn wasn't paying attention, she snuggled up to him and offered to help him adjust his tie.

Shawn's expression changed slightly. Just as he was about to push her away, Estelle happened to come in and see everything.

Hence, Shawn acted a little childishly and wanted to see Estelle's reaction.

Sure enough, he found her reaction to be rather... surprising.

When Kris saw Estelle, she didn't take her seriously. After all, she knew how bad Estelle's reputation was in Bradford City just by looking at how many boyfriends she had had before.

"You think I'll let go just because you ask me to? On what grounds?" Kris heard that Estelle was pursuing Shawn, but she reckoned there was no way he would accept Estelle.

After all, how could such a noble man be with a woman as shameless as Estelle?

Kris deliberately moved her hand to remove Shawn's tie, but a cold voice suddenly sounded from atop her head. "Let go."

His voice was icy to the core.

Kris froze for a moment, then smiled and lifted her head to look at Shawn. Her eyes were full of ambiguity. "Deputy Mayor Hart, I'm sorry. I was so immersed in talking with Miss Langley that I forgot to help you with your tie. I—"

"I said let go." The man's cold voice sounded once more. This time, Shawn instantly pushed Kris away. Frowning, he glanced at the tie on his chest, then immediately pulled the angry woman in front of him into his arms. "My tie is loose. Help me adjust it."

"You think I'll adjust it just because you asked me to?" Estelle looked at Shawn's tie. She felt disgusted just thinking that Kris had touched that tie!

Shawn seemed to know what she was thinking. Raising his eyebrows, he suddenly took off his tie before throwing it into the trash can beside him—all while Kris was watching.

In an instant, Kris was livid, and she glared resentfully at Estelle.

She didn't expect that Myra's friend had actually found a way to tie Shawn down already!

Estelle didn't spare her another glance but simply looked at Shawn's hand which had just touched the tie with disgust.

A tinge of helplessness appeared in Shawn's eyes. He suddenly took a handkerchief out from his pocket before carefully wiping the hand that had just touched the tie. Then, he threw the handkerchief into the trash can and hugged Estelle. "Is it fine now? I didn't intend to let another woman touch me just now."

Kris heard the meaning behind his words. He was implying that she had deliberately tried to get close to him just now, so the incident had nothing to do with him!

Kris had always been conceited, and the men chasing her could form a line all the way from Bradford City to Springdale City. However, the two men that she had her eyes on were seemingly blind, as they didn't see her at all!

She couldn't bear to stay in Shawn's office anymore, so in her seven-inch high-heels, she left in bitter haste!

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After she left, Estelle stared begrudgingly at the man in front of her, who had a faint smile on his lips. Suddenly, she gave Shawn's waist a hard pinch. "What was she doing here? Why were you guys so close just now? If I didn't come in, were you just going to let her adjust your tie?"

Estelle's tone was extremely unpleasant.

Kris could be considered the first woman Estelle hated. Since she met Myra, she had been at odds with Kris! Not to mention, all the despicable things she did to Myra did nothing to help her reputation!

Moreover, the fact that Shawn didn't dodge her advances at the first second greatly dissatisfied her!

When Shawn felt her pinch, he grimaced in pain. Raising an eyebrow, he reached out to hold Estelle's hand. He had been hugging her, but now, he leaned against the desk and gathered her into his arms. "Jealous?"

"As if! Shawn, don't forget what I said last night. If you dare to look for another woman, I'll definitely hang you up and cut off your—" Her behavior during the day was indeed different from the nighttime. They were in an office in the city hall, after all, so Estelle didn't finish her sentence, but her eyes were opened wide threateningly!

"I remember you saying that. Then, Estelle, do you remember the other things you said to me last night? For example, about being engaged to me?"

A gleam flashed across Estelle's eyes.

Today, she wanted to find Shawn to clarify everything, but she didn't expect Kris' appearance.

She wanted to take back what she just said, but she knew that justice wasn't on her side.

She bit her lip, but Shawn simply released a soft sigh. "Kris came to rescind the Stark Group's application for the Central Square project. Nothing could've happened between us. But, you're obviously jealous, so why do you keep on rejecting me?"

Seeing that Shawn was beginning to display the gentleness that he learned from who-knew-where again, Estelle clenched the hands that she left hanging by her sides. Then, she looked up. "Did you just say that Kris came to rescind the application for the Central Square project?"

...

When Myra received Estelle's call, she had just come out of the conference room.

Cameron had returned her bid for the Central Square project and had unceremoniously judged it at the meeting. His sharp words kept a frown on Myra's face, and it deepened when she heard what Estelle told her.

Kris wouldn't dare rescind the application for the Central Square project on her own, so this decision was definitely the result of her discussion with Cameron.

However, Cameron didn't bring it up just now.

"Have you decided to be with Shawn?" Myra didn't miss the anger and jealousy in her voice when Estelle mentioned how Kris tried to hook up with Shawn. Due to this, her furrowed brows relaxed slightly.

"I never said that!" Estelle was still a little stubborn.

Just now, although she didn't agree with Shawn, she didn't refuse either and had simply changed the topic. She was a little worried and a little uncertain...

"I just wanted to inform you about this. I don't know what on earth Kris is doing! But, she seemed to have really good judgment as always!"

Myra understood what Estelle meant.

Kris never much cared about how much a man loved her; as long as the man was up to her standards, she would like them.

Obviously, the Hart brothers fulfilled all her criteria!

Thinking of how Kris drooled over Tony and Shawn at the same time, Myra felt sick.

After telling Estelle not to treat Shawn too unfairly, Myra hung up the phone.

Somehow, she found that something was off about Kris and Cameron's actions.

While waiting for the elevator with a group of people, Myra rubbed her temples as she watched the elevator come up floor by floor. Tilly was behind her.

Very quickly, the elevator arrived. But, as she waited for the group of people to go in first, the woman standing inside caused Myra to stay frozen in place and purse her lips.

"Miss Stark, it wouldn't do you good to always escape like this, right? You know that Tony and I fell in love with each other a long time ago in the States,

but you still snatched him away from me, not caring about your status as a married woman! Miss Stark, don't you know the meaning of shame?"

Before everyone got into the elevator, the woman, Gemma, walked out and snapped at her.

The people who were waiting with Myra were the employees who just attended the meeting on Cameron's floor.

Almost every department's director, managers, and their secretaries were present. At this moment, a large group of them were gathered around the elevator.

Gemma's words immediately attracted everyone's attention.

Myra didn't know if she had done it on purpose. While everyone was in a daze, she deliberately stood at the elevator entrance, not letting anyone go up. Soon, the elevator door closed automatically and went down.

Yesterday, Tony and Myra had angered her, so of course, she poured all her hatred onto Myra! If Myra hadn't pretended to be weak and innocent last night, Tony wouldn't have helped her and treated me like that! In the end, I was kicked out of the Hart Residence!

Fortunately, she called her brother last night, which was why she had the chance to enter Stark Tower today!

Malice was clearly written on her face, but there was a layer of grievance and unwillingness in her eyes. She swept her gaze over the people who had begun to exchange whispers.

She had spoken well, and the effect was better than she thought.

Myra's brows furrowed slightly. Not everyone could easily come up to Cameron's floor, and Gemma had obviously come up to find her, so who was helping her?

Myra turned to look directly at Tilly. "Call for security. A woman has come to create trouble on President Stark's floor, so get someone to come and drag her down."

Tilly was looking at the woman in front of them with displeasure, wondering where on earth she came from and why she spewed such crazy things as soon as she arrived. Upon hearing Myra's order, she hurriedly agreed and took out her phone to call for security from below.

"Miss Stark, are you feeling guilty? So what if you find someone to take me away?! After all the underhanded things you've done, aren't you going to admit to doing them? It's no wonder the Chase Family abandoned you! How dare a woman like you get involved with the Hart Family? Even if you cheated while you were married, why did you have to steal my man? Tony and I were already engaged. Miss Stark, what do you think you're doing? You should let everyone else be the judge!"

Gemma spoke in vivid detail, and she got so emotional that she couldn't help but cry.

Noticing that people around her were pointing and criticizing, Myra's face sank at once.

"Miss Walton, Sean and I divorced by mutual consent. As for Tony, I only got together with him after the divorce... Please don't talk nonsense. Besides, Tony has never told me that he was engaged to another woman. Otherwise, I don't think he would've worn the same ring as me."

Myra lifted her left hand, and the impressive ring on her middle finger entered everyone's view.

Recently, the news of Myra getting together with Tony Hart of the Hart Group was the topic of entertainment for the employees at the Stark Group.

Who didn't know that after she divorced Sean, instead of being devastated, she had unexpectedly found an even better man?

However, today they discovered that the situation didn't seem like what they thought it was.

Otherwise, why would this woman say such provocative things so blatantly?

Standing before Love Chapter 261

However, upon seeing the ring on Myra's hand, the crowd fell silent. There was a financial talk show two days ago, and the guest of the interview was none other than Tony Hart—the president of the Hart Group.

At that time, apart from the trivial economic problems, the host was very interested in the ring on his hand. When asked if the day of the wedding was approaching, Tony casually answered 'yes'. Right then, the affection on his face and the tenderness in his eyes when he looked at the ring nearly drowned everyone on and off screen!

That particular talk show had shocked the entire Bradford City, and they even showed a close-up shot of the ring. In fact, the employees of the Stark Group noticed that Myra had on the same-style ring, but it was only at this moment that they were certain that both of them were wearing couple rings!

When Gemma saw the ring on Myra's hand, her expression instantly turned unpleasant. Needless to say, Gemma wasn't unfamiliar with that ring. When she first returned to Bradford City, she already noticed the strange ring on Tony's finger, but obviously, the man who was impatient with her wouldn't tell her anything about the ring. Now that Myra had revealed the answer, Gemma felt a fiery sense of shame burning inside her, and she wanted so badly to tear the woman in front of her to shreds!

"Is that so? But, as far as I know, you and Director Chase got divorced because you had long been suspected of wanting to hook up with Tony. You sold the secrets of the Chase Family's Hillville Project to the Hart Family to get closer to them. After the Chase Family obtained evidence, you knew that you were going to be exposed, and you even went all the way to the golf course to beg Tony. At that time, the paparazzi took a lot of photos. The Chase Family spread stories about you staying in Tony's office an entire night before you even divorced Director Chase. Myra, what else can you say to argue?" Gemma stared unblinkingly at the woman in front of her. Since she dares to be with Tony, she has to pay the price!

Immediately, the crowd erupted into a chorus of 'woahs'. Some things were just rumors, so they didn't dare discuss them too openly. After all, they had all personally witnessed Tony taking care of the Stark Group's general manager—Myra.

But, she got together with Tony right after divorcing Sean. Did Miss Stark really not betray Director Chase during their marriage?

Noticing everyone's suspicious and condemning gazes, Myra sneered inwardly. Gemma was trying to ruin her reputation in front of everyone on purpose.

Myra looked indifferently at the woman in front of her, who was clearly prepared, and her gaze turned cold. "Miss Walton, do show evidence before you say such things. You've just returned, so you might not know the laws in this country. Your remarks just now are enough to constitute a crime of defamation."

"Whether or not it's defamation, we don't know yet!" Gemma looked delightedly at Myra. This was all thanks to her brother, who had helped her investigate everything. This b*tch went so far as to hook up Tony while she was married! At that time, did Tony know that she was a married woman? Tony must have been deceived by her, which is why he's still with her now!

"Don't stand here anymore. Go do what you're supposed to do! What's so interesting here? There's nothing more than a feral dog trying to bite people!" Tilly sensed that something was wrong, so she wanted to quickly disperse the onlooking crowd.

"Don't do that. Since you're not guilty, why would you be afraid of other people hearing stuff? Myra, are you bold enough to swear? Are you bold enough to say that you didn't do anything to betray Director Chase during your marriage?! Are you bold enough to say that you didn't approach Tony while you were married?!" Gemma's expression was no longer the picture of feigned grievances and resignation. Now, she appeared arrogant—like a peacock that didn't want to let go.

"Why wouldn't I be bold enough to admit all that!?" Myra's face darkened.

Clap, clap, clap. Gemma clapped. Mockery was written all over her face. "I really despise women like you! It's a good thing the Chase Family cut off relations with you. Whoever gets involved with you will be infected with bad luck! But, do you really think I don't have a way?"

All of a sudden, Gemma took out her phone, where a video had been paused. While Myra stared coldly at her, Gemma pressed the play button, and the video immediately started playing in front of everyone.

The look on everyone's faces changed from curiosity to suspicion and shock! All these happened in merely two to three minutes.

Myra knew what kind of video it was as soon as she saw the scene at which the video was paused. She had seen the video a few months ago. It was the one that Sasha had picked out and given to Sean—where she was running out of Tony's hotel room in a disheveled state. Not only did the video catch her in an awkward situation, but it also clearly showed who the hotel room that she ran out of belonged to.

Myra tightly clenched her fists that were hanging by her sides.

"Myra, are you still going to argue now?!" Gemma's gaze became aggressive. Taking a step forward, she stood right in front of Myra before lifting her head and staring intently at her. "Now, there's evidence to show what kind of a woman you are. I also have a photo of you leaving Tony's office, and that photo can prove that you stayed in his office all night before you and Director Chase got divorced! Didn't you swear that you didn't do anything to betray Director Chase during your marriage? Didn't you say you didn't get close to Tony while you were still married? Then, what is this?"

Gemma felt extremely happy. If you had been sensible and left Tony that day, I might have only taught you a simple lesson. But, since you didn't recognize the favor I was giving you, you can't blame me for being cruel!

"Myra, why don't you explain yourself in the presence of everyone at the Stark Group? Why were you in Tony's room that day? Why did you run out of Tony's room looking disheveled? Don't tell us that you just went in to have a chat with Tony. Everyone here has a brain, so you don't need to waste everyone's time by talking nonsense."

"Who do you think you are? What right do you have to come here and say all these to Miss Stark? Miss, if you don't have an appointment, then I'm sorry. Stark Tower is not a wet market where anyone can just walk in!"

As soon as Tilly finished speaking, a 'ding' sounded to indicate that the elevator had reached their floor. The elevator doors opened and three security guards were standing inside. Tilly relaxed in an instant, and she hurriedly waved to the three of them. "Security, here! It's this woman. I don't know how the people downstairs allowed her to come up. She's been up here creating a fuss for a long while. Hurry up and get her out of Stark Tower!"

The three security guards hurried over and were about to grab Gemma's arm. "Miss, I'm sorry, but please leave Stark Tower immediately!"

The three security guards were a little nervous because she was causing trouble on Cameron's floor. They were afraid that Cameron would place the blame on them and they would lose their jobs.

"Let go!" Gemma broke away from the security guards' grasps, then looked sharply at Myra. "Myra, what is it? Are you so eager to kick me out of Stark Tower because you were caught red-handed? Didn't you say that you didn't do those things? Then, can I take your silence as acquiescence? Weren't you going to sue me for defamation? Why don't you call the police right now?"