

The Billionaire's Hidden Obsession by Hikikomori Chapter 6

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Chapter 6

"MAAM Sera," Anji's shocked face greeted Sera as she entered Sebastian's home. She thought she'd be fine but seeing where she'd spent almost two years of her married life felt like stepping back in time. The memories flooded her mind, and she shuddered involuntarily before she could control her emotions.

"Ma'am Sera, are you okay?" Anji asked, looking worriedly at her. Sera snapped back to reality and nodded her head before she responded with an unconvincing smile.

"I'm fine. It's been a while, Anji," she said before turning to face Sebastian, who had just finished parking his car. "I'm going upstairs; don't bother me." "We still have to talk."

"Talk about what?" she frowned, making Anji slowly step out of the scene to give them some privacy. She has no idea what's going on or why Sera returned after what happened; she assumed Sebastian had ordered her to clean the guest room because he was expecting a visitor, but she hadn't expected it to be his ex-wife.

"I told you my parents were coming for dinner tonight; we have to act like we're still together in front of them, we need to discuss how we'll convince them," he said as he sat on the couch. Sera just sighed and sat in front of him. She doesn't have the energy to argue with him, and she knows doing so would exhaust her. She'll just do whatever it takes to get this over with.

"Where's your ring?" he asked, looking at her hands. He had wanted to ask this earlier, but his pride kept him from doing so. "My parents will be suspicious if they notice you aren't wearing any

"I already threw it," she said flatly, making his finger twitch slightly. The woman in front of her was nothing like the woman he had married. He knew he was partly to blame, but he didn't expect her to move on so quickly. Her eyes lacked the light they used to have when they were

together, and it bothers him.

He did like Sera, she's nice, sweet, and smart. She's ideal for a wife, which is why his parents adore her. If Samantha hadn't returned, he might have been able to learn to love her, or at least continued to pretend he could. However, Samantha came back and steal his heart all over again, leaving no room for Sera

"If you're worried they'll be suspicious, I'll just tell them I misplaced it," she reassured, jolting him out of his reverie. He sighed and looked at her.

"All right, try not to show your hatred for me once they're here, we need to be the loving couple they used to see us in

Sera's face scrunched up in disgust at the thought of her being clingy to him like she used to be. But she agreed to help him in deceiving his parents, so she had to stomach everything

"Fine," she mumbled, not really caring. She stood up and looked down at him, particularly at his hand. She noticed it yesterday, but he's still wearing their wedding ring. "I'll rest now if you don't have anything else to say."

"Come out before 7, we need to greet them together," he said, but she didn't respond and went upstairs, ignoring him completely. She entered the guest room, locked the door, and threw herself on the bed, letting out a loud sigh. Just as she thought everything was going well, the past comes rushing back. She wished time would speed up so she could get out of this hell.

She closed her eyes and rested for a few moments, trying to clear her mind of all the unwanted memories that were swirling around. But it wasn't working; fortunately, her attention was drawn when her phone rang. She opened her eyes and took her phone from her pocket to check the caller ID: seeing an unknown number caused her to sit up and take the call, thinking it might be important.

"Hello?"

"It's me," a deep and husky voice replied, making her shudder. She immediately recognizes it as belonging to Primo, her boss.

"Sir," her voice was hesitant but professional. She wanted to ask how he

got her number, but it was already obvious because

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he stated during lunch that he checked her resume. She pinched her lip and asked another question instead. "What can I do for you?"

"Are you busy?" he wondered, turning his swivel chair to face the night sky through his office's large window. It wasn't so bad compared to his real office, he thought.

"Uhm... As of now, no, but I'll be busy in 30 minutes," she replied, glancing at the door. "Why?"

"Do you recall what we discussed earlier?" He rubbed his chin with his index finger, his elbow resting on the chair's armrest. "About me wanting you to be at my beck and call?"

"Yes, sir." Sera nodded, feeling a little tense despite the fact that their conversation is normal and nothing out of the ordinary. "Do you need me for something?"

"Yes, but you said you'd be busy, so it's fine. Have a good night" Primo hung up the phone and tapped it on his lips, thinking how attractive her voice was even on the phone. He smirked in amusement. It never occurred to him that he would become obsessed with a woman. He told himself he'd take things slowly so he wouldn't overwhelm her, but holding back wasn't as easy as he'd expected.

Meanwhile, Sera just stares at her phone, puzzled. What could he possibly want from her she thought. She was curious, and her impulsive thought made her send him a message, asking what he wants from her. She waited for him to answer, but there was no reply. She just sighed and took a quick shower before changing into casual clothes. Soon after, she heard a knock on the door.

"Sera, let's go." Sebastian said, making her roll her eyes. She opened the door and scowled at him.

"I'm going to act as if I'm still in love with you in front of your parents, but this is the first and last time you'll come near the room I'm in while living here," she said to him with a blank expression. I know this is your house,

but you're the one asking a favor here, not me."

Sebastian was stunned as she walked past him. He knows she despises him, but he didn't realize it was to this degree. He wasn't doing anything outrageous, but she was already acting like that. Now that he thinks about it, Sera had never been so aggressive before. Even when they had disagreements or misunderstandings, she always understood him and make up to him afterward no matter who was in the wrong. That's what he likes about her the most; she's easy to deal with, so this behavior of hers now makes him feel. Weird.

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"GOOD EVENING, MA, PA, Sera said warmly as the couple in their late 30s entered the house. They both returned her smile and hugged her tightly, telling her how much they missed her.

"It's been a while, I thought you and Sebastian had broken up because we haven't heard from you in two months," his father said, making her flinch slightly.

"We just had a minor disagreement, but we're fine Dad" Sebastian said, placing his hand on Sera's lower back. She felt her skin crawl from his touch but decided to keep her cool and ignore it.

"As

you should, a woman like Sera is rare nowadays, so treasure her, it would be your loss if you lost her," his mother said, and Sebastian felt guilty because he knew how much Sera meant to his family. They'll surely be disappointed once they learn the truth about their divorce.

"How are you doing these days?" Romulo questioned his daughter-in-law as they seated at the dining table.

"I'm doing good, Pa. How about you? Sorry, I haven't been able to visit you these past two months; things happened, and I got really busy," Sera smiled, glancing at Sebastian, who is doing his best to act like everything was normal.

It was obvious how worried he was, and it somehow satisfies her

"Well, same old, same old. It gets pretty boring staying at home and working," he replied, taking a table napkin and placing it over his lap. Anji, on the other hand, was pouring water into everyone's glasses "Aren't you

guys going to give us a grandchild-

Romulo wasn't able to finish his sentence when the doorbell rang

"Are you expecting any other guests, Sebastian?" Agatha inquired, causing her son to shake his head.

"Anji, can you see who's at the door?" he asked, earning a nod from her.

She went straight to the front door and opened it, revealing Samantha. She frowned, unsure of what was going on

"Where's Sebastian?" Samantha asked, stepping inside without waiting for an answer. Anji tried to stop her, but she had already made her way to the dining area, where she could hear voices. As soon as she saw how Sebastian, his parents, and Sera are talking happily, she stopped dead in her tracks, feeling uneasy and annoyed. She concluded that this was the reason Sebastian wasn't returning her calls.

"Why are you here?" Agatha wondered as she noticed a familiar woman standing near the door frame. Everyone at the table fell silent and turned their heads toward her, their faces displaying disbelief.

"Uhm..." Samantha fiddled with her fingers while Sebastian turned as pale as a sheet and almost dropped the glass of water he was holding in his hands. He clearly told her not to come to his house for a while, but she didn't listen. He knew this would upset her, so he didn't tell her, he should have just explained everything if he knew she was coming anyway.

"Are you here for the documents?" he stood up and walked towards Samantha before facing his parents, "I'll excuse myself for a moment,"

"That woman looks familiar," Romulo said, trying to remember who she was. Sera pursed her lips, unsure of what to feel right now. Her gaze shifted to her in-laws, and seeing how hard they tried to remember who that woman is made her feel conflicted. Sebastian, as far as she knew, had never introduced Samantha to his parents when they were dating because they had a negative impression of her, and he knew they would be against their relationship. At least, that's what she heard from his friend.

"Isn't she the woman who took advantage of our son before?" Agatha stated, drawing Sera's attention. Sebastian, on the other hand, was dealing with Samantha.

"Why are you here?" he inquired as they moved away from the dining area.

"You're not returning my calls; what's the meaning of this?" Samantha

yanked her arms from his grip and stared at him angrily with an icy cold expression. "Did you and Sera get back together?"

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"No, of course not," he said, massaging his temple, "I'll explain things later, just go home for now, okay?"

"What?" Samantha asked, frowning. "Are you kidding me? If I go home now, you won't see me again."

Sebastian flinched, the mere thought of her disappearance giving him chills. He took a deep breath to calm himself and gently took her hand in his.

"Come on, don't be like that. I'm doing all of this so we can finally be together without hiding," he said, slightly smiling, but she remained silent.

"Besides, there's no such thing as a get back together between me and Sera; it will never happen."

"How can I be sure when you've been doing stuff like this behind my back?"

"I'm sorry, okay? I won't do it again." He kissed her knuckles before pulling her closer and cupping her face in his hands, "Promise."

"Fine, but I'd like to join the dinner; it bothers me to see that woman when I'm the one who is supposed to be by your side, having dinner with your parents. She demanded, which stressed the sh*t out of Sebastian. He closed his eyes and exhaled through his nose, pondering how to deal with her stubbornness. After a few seconds, he made a decision.

"All right, but don't do or say anything that will expose our relationship," he said, "Just pretend we're doing business together."

Samantha smiled, anticipating Sera's reaction when she joined them. She hadn't seen her since the incident, so she thought she'd finally be able to have Sebastian all to herself, but she didn't expect her to be here. Now that it's come to this, she'll remind Sera again that Sebastian didn't choose her and make her realize she has no place in his life anymore,

Or at least she thought she could.

"What are you doing?" Romulo asked sternly when his son returned with Samantha.

"She went her way to get the documents, so I thought I'd let her join us before she headed home," Sebastian explained, pulling the seat beside

Sera and allowing Samantha to take a seat.

“I’m sorry for intruding: I told him it was fine, but he insisted, she said, smiling and tugging her hair behind her ear. Sera couldn’t help but clench her fist beneath the table, perplexed as to how Sebastian allowed her mistress to join the family dinner when he was supposed to persuade his family that their marriage was still intact. The disrespect he was showing her made her blood boil.

“Are you out of your mind, Sebastian? This is family dinner, how could you just let an uninvited guest join us?” Agatha raised an eyebrow, the blonde woman’s presence irked her, especially now that she remembered who she was.

“Don’t be rude, Mom,” he said as he returned to her chair. The tension around the table began to rise quickly, making him regret his decision to invite Samantha to join them. He hadn’t expected his parents to react this way because they were always welcoming and respectful to the people he knew.

“Isn’t she the woman who took advantage of you before? And what kind of shameless woman would just enter the house of a married man?” she glared at Samantha, causing her to flinch and feel uncomfortable. “And if anyone is being rude here, it’s you, inviting a woman when your wife is here; did we raise you to be this disrespectful?”

“Mom, please-”

“Let her go home if she’d already taken what she needed, she had no business joining a family dinner when she’s not even a member,” Romulo cut him off which surprised him. Samantha, on the other hand, felt humiliated, her face flushed with shame.

Sera slowly covered her mouth as she was already on the verge of laughing. She then glanced at her ex-husband’s mistress and flashed a mocking smile when their eyes met, making Samantha clench her fist and pushed the chair back. She politely apologized to the old couple before walking away. Sebastian tried to follow her, but Romulo stopped him.

“Sit down, don’t ruin the dinner any more than it already has.”

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“WHY DIDN’T YOU SAY ANYTHING?” Sera came to a halt when she

heard Sebastian's question. She slowly turned to face him, her hand gripping the stairs handrail. Her eyes looked down at his face and she could see the frustration written all over it.

"What happened at the dinner was your fault; you brought that all on yourself, she said with a hint of anger seeping through, "You're smart Sebastian, what were you thinking inviting your mistress to the dinn—" "Samantha isn't a mistress," he interrupted, causing her to scoff in disbelief. "Then what is she? What do you call a woman who is in a relationship with a married man? Sera countered, making sure to use every ounce of control that she had to not shout at him. She's not going to let him win any more arguments the way she used to. Her love for him made her too soft and selfless, but that won't be the case anymore, she'll make sure to show him what his betrayal turned her into

"She's my girlfriend, and she's the mother of my child," he corrected, looking her in the eyes. Sera gripped the handrail tighter, her heart pounding from the words she had just heard.

"That's how you see her, but no matter how you sugarcoat it, a woman in a relationship with a married man is nothing more than a mistress," she replied coldly, taking a step downward until they were directly in front of each other. "I'll remind you again just in case you forgot; I'm the one doing you a favor here, so if you want to test my patience, try me.

Sebastian tried to open his mouth, but all that came out was a small sigh. He knew this wasn't the way to get her to help him in convincing his parents that their marriage is still in place. Seeing their reaction earlier warned him that telling them about Samantha's pregnancy and his intention to marry her after the divorce was finalized would not go well. He had no idea they would remember her and the incident after all these years, "Seriously, where did your brain go?" Sera added, shaking her head in disappointment, "Whatever, talking to you would be the death of me. We have our agreement, so the moment you approach me again, I'll leave and let you deal with your own problem."

She turned around and continued walking upstairs, ignoring his calls from behind her. He clenched his jaw when she didn't even bother to turn around

"F*ck," he muttered to himself. He then walked over to the couch and sat down, rubbing his temples. This whole situation was absurd; this was not

what he had in mind when he asked Sera to live with him again. He expected her to remain the same woman who always made things easier for him... The one who would take care of everything he desired. But his assumptions were wrong, and Sera completely changed. She's no longer in love with him.

He leaned back on the couch's backrest and stared blankly at the chandelier, wondering how she was able to move on so quickly when she was head over heels for him. Sure, he hurt her when he asked for a divorce. He betrayed her trust by admitting he cheated on her, but was two months enough time for her to move on from their past? No, not really. She must have found someone else to fall in love with.

With that thought, he remembered the guy she was with at the restaurant earlier. He scowled, displeased at the thought of Sera being with anyone other than him.

"HUH? Are you not going to eat breakfast?" Anji asked as she noticed Sera going downstairs as if she was in a hurry, which she most likely was because she was trying to avoid Sebastian as much as possible.

"Yes, I'll just have breakfast on my way to work," she said as she left the house for the train station. She has already returned the car Sebastian gave her on their wedding day, so she is simply commuting to work. Even though her savings were sufficient to purchase a brand-new car, she decided to prioritize the renovation of her parent's cafe due to increased store traffic. She wanted to expand their space to fit more tables and chairs because the space was too small to accommodate the number of customers.

She has much more important things to think about now than problems involving Sebastian. She shouldn't allow him to undo the progress she has made so far.

"C*ap!" she exclaimed as she was startled by a loud h*nk. She turned her head and looked at the familiar car, which was

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slowly driving to match her pace as she walked to the sidewalk. The window rolled down, revealing Primo.

"Are you on your way to work?" he asked, his elbow resting against the frame. Sera was stunned for a moment before responding, unsure how to act in his presence.

“Yes, sir,” she said, fiddling with the bag strap around her shoulder.

“Is that so? Hop in. I’ll give you a ride.

“I-it’s okay, sir,” she stammered, a little embarrassed for some unknown reason. She was just casually talking to him yesterday, but now she’s all awkward. Perhaps because she didn’t expect to have a conversation with him this early “We’re not in the office, so you can be casual with me,” Primo informed her to which she nodded in response.

“You messaged me last night what I wanted from you when I called,” he added before continuing, “Well, I want you to accompany me to dinner, but since you were busy last night, how about joining me for breakfast today instead?”

It was a simple request, so she quickly agreed and climbed into the passenger seat. As soon as buckled her seatbelt, Primo started driving at a normal speed, glancing at Sera who looked awkward sitting next to him. It seemed like something was bothering her so Primo took the initiative to talk “Why are you going to work so early? There’s still one and a half hours until the scheduled shift start,” he asked, drawing Sera’s attention to him. She cracked a small smile, attempting to distract herself from the events of the previous night.

“I’m avoiding my ex-husband,” She admitted casually because she didn’t want to lie and make things hard for her than necessary. “How about you, sir? Are you on your way to work as well?”

“Hmm. I was actually on my way to eat,” he explained. “I dislike eating alone, so I tend to cat outside before going to work.” He added with a chuckle, making Sera smile softly at him. It wasn’t that big, but she hadn’t expected him to casually open up to her like that, especially since he appeared to have a strung and massive wall between himself and everyone. She couldn’t put her finger on it, but Primo’s personality seems to be difficult to decipher. And for some reason, Sera is curious to learn more about him, after all, he looks more approachable now than when she first spoke with him in the hospital.

“I see, sorry for not being able to join you last night; I had dinner with my in-laws, and things happened, she apologized sincerely.

“It’s fine,” he said casually while driving, “Anyway, have you had breakfast yet? I invited you without asking”

“No, I haven’t yet, sir” she replied, “But can we eat something from the company? I don’t want to be involved in rumors if someone from the

company sees us together.

“Sure, whatever makes you comfortable,” he nodded, not wanting to cause her any trouble. After a few minutes, they arrived at the coffee shop where Primo used to hang out. Even though it was far from the agency, they should be able to get to work on time because there was no traffic. Picking his usual table, Sera followed him silently and took a seat across from him as the waiter approached them. There weren't many customers yet, so the atmosphere was calm and peaceful. The mood was very relaxing, and it was a great way to start the morning.

“I'll order the usual, Primo said before looking at Sera, who was looking through the menu. He had noticed it earlier, but she appears to have gotten a bad night's sleep. He has a lot of questions, like what happened and why he's avoiding his ex-husband, and why she's living with him again, but bombarding her with them may not be the best approach given how they aren't that close yet.

He needs to come up with a better approach because she might think he's annoying. He needs to put more effort into his façade to make her feel comfortable around him and less suspicious, that way, she could open up to him without him asking or prying too much. He needs to do whatever it takes to win her heart and trust—even if it means manipulating things to his advantage.

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SWAMPING AT WORK was something most employees despised, but for Sera, who needed to drown herself in her work to forget about everything else, it was a godsend. As soon as she arrived at work after having breakfast with Primo, she immediately dove headfirst into her workspace. The moment she had opened her laptop, she began typing drafts for the new copy ad she started working on yesterday.

She'd been gone for months, so it's not surprising that she's been swamped by work now that she's returned to the office. She wasn't complaining, though, because she needed to concentrate all of her mind and energy on the work, rather than thinking of her problems.

“There she goes again, she was completely immersed in her work Jacob muttered, turning his gaze to Sera, who was busy scribbling something in one of her notebooks and then typing another draft on her keyboard. It

wasn't his first time seeing her like this, especially since they'd been sitting next to each other since they started working, but it still amazed him how passionate she could be.

"Sera," he called, knocking on the partition that separated their cubicles. She flinched and turned around, raising both her brows in question. "It's time for the meeting, aren't you coming

"Meeting" she asked, slightly tilting her head, "What meeting?"

"You didn't hear what Mrs. Katy announced earlier he inquired, and she shook her head no

"There will be a brief meeting for the new project," Jacobi explained, and she nodded, she was so preoccupied with coming up with a copy ad idea that she barely heard anything else Mrs. Katy said earlier

"Tsee, sorry, I wasn't listening earlier. Let's go, she stood up from her desk, gathered her belongings, and followed Jacob They made their way quietly to the conference room where the rest of the Marketing department was gathered. When they settled, the door swung open, revealing Primo. Sera hadn't expected him to attend the meeting, so when their gazes met, her heart began to race for some reason,

It has to be because they were together just a few hours ago. The entire breakfast with him was so relaxing, they mostly talked about work, especially since Primo was interested in knowing more about her. They kept exchanging questions, such as how long she had been working in the marketing department and what he had done before joining the company.

The brief time they had together was filled with pleasant conversation, at least until Primo demanded that Sera should have a meal with him more often. Again, it was a simple request but seemed far more important than it actually was

"Shall we begin the meeting?" he asked, breaking Sera's trance. The rest of the people in the room nodded and Mrs. Katy began discussing the plans and the main roles that they'll play in the upcoming project.

The marketing department is the arm of the business that promotes the company's brand, products, and services. And as a growing subsidiary fashion brand, their team is in charge of managing a massive amount of advertising and product promotions, which is a lot of work as well as a lot of pressure. Now that they're working under a new director, it was expected that he'll have a different strategy, standardization, and structure than what

they were used to handle.

As Jacob previously stated, it was a brief meeting, so after Mrs. Katy finished discussing the agenda, everyone returned to their respective desks and resumed their work.

“UGH!” Sera stretched her arms when she finished the last line of a document. She took out her phone and checked the time, but her attention was drawn when she saw the message notification from Primo, telling her to attend the welcome party tonight.

“Let’s clock out,” Lara said excitedly, putting her papers away as quickly as she could. Sera chuckled and did the same; she made a promise to them yesterday, so she doesn’t have much of a choice but to attend the party. Besides, she hasn’t had a drink in a long time, so she’ll probably enjoy it even if it’s just a little bit.

When they arrived at the restaurant near the company, the other employees were already there, and as expected, they rented the entire place because the tables were divided by departments. Sera went to greet her other coworkers, whom she hadn’t seen in a month, before taking a seat next to Lara and Jacob.

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“Where’s Mrs. Katy?” she inquired, noticing she wasn’t present.

“She won’t get here until late,” Jacob said, and she nodded. Even though the main character of the party hadn’t arrived yet, everyone was already having a good time and drinking

“While the director isn’t here yet, let’s celebrate Sera’s return,” Lara said, standing up and raising the bottle of beer. Sera was embarrassed, but when her colleague cheered, she quickly drank the beer Lara had poured into her glass.

“Bottoms up!” everyone exclaimed, forcing her to close her eyes as she gulped the cold beverage down in one gulp. She couldn’t help but exhale as she set the glass down, wiping the corner of her mouth with the back of her hand.

“Wow, that was really good!” Sera breathed.

“You’re quite the drinker, huh?” a familiar voice said, causing everyone to turn their heads as Primo walked in. When they all greeted him, he

chuckled and nodded, while Sera averted her gaze, embarrassed that he saw her chugging beer like it was water.

“Are you sure you don’t know who the director is?” Lara jokingly tapped Sera on the shoulder. Sera chuckled awkwardly and shook her head. She was about to open her mouth to respond when Primo spoke up, delivering a brief message as the party’s main guest.

“I’ve already introduced myself to everyone yesterday, but I’ll do so again tonight: my name is Primo Valdemar, and I’ll be the new director of Lauver; I appreciate everyone’s warm welcome.” he said, holding a glass of liquor in one hand. His eyes scanned through everyone. “I’m looking forward to working with all of you”

As he drank his liquor, the entire room erupted in applause and cheers. He then sat at the table where the company managers were seated. They were entertaining him, but his gaze kept wandering over to Sera, who was happily chatting with his coworkers.

“Now that you’re single again, we can invite you to go clubbing with us,” Lara said, hugging Sera’s arm. The news of her divorce spread quickly among company employees, particularly those who knew her, but no one really asked or dared to speak about it. It would only create an awkward atmosphere, and they knew Sera preferred to keep her personal life private.

“Should we go after this?” she chuckled, the alcohol affecting her quickly. She realized that chugging the beer on an empty stomach wasn’t such a great decision after all

“That would be fantastic, but we won’t be able to go to work tomorrow,” Jacob joked, “So let’s do it next week, before the holiday, so we can go clubbing until dawn.”

“That sounds like a plan! Let’s go!” Lara exclaimed.

“What are you guys talking about?” Primo asked, drawing everyone’s attention to him. They were taken aback for a moment by his presence, but once they recovered, they began greeting him while Lara answered his question.

“We were planning to go clubbing next week, would you like to join us, sir?” she asked, smiling.

“Hmm, my schedule’s pretty full these days, so... Maybe another time,” he said, glancing at Sera, which instantly made her avert her gaze. Primo

smirked and exchanged a few words with his team member before returning to his seat. He seems less as intimidating as he did yesterday; rather, he looks gentle and kind, which piqued Sera's interest even more. What makes him seem so familiar?

"Oh my G*d! Our department's new director was really handsome," the girls on their team gossiped with each other.

"Right? He seems nice enough, and he's such an eye candy. I wouldn't mind being a corporate sl*e if I could get to his face all the time." Lara chuckled, "I wonder if he had a girlfriend, or maybe he's already married."

Sera paused drinking when she heard the last part of her friend's statement, looked at the glass that was about to touch her lips, and slowly put it down again, a frown on her face. She was about to join the conversation when her phone rang. She took it from her pocket to see who might be calling.

"I'll just step outside for a sec," she told her coworkers, who nodded and continued talking. She was already tipsy and Primo noticed it as he watched her walk outside, wondering where she was going.

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"Hi. Emma!" Sera exclaimed as soon as she answered the phone. She leaned against the lamp post near the entrance and closed her eyes, enjoying the night breeze. She could hear the faint noises coming from inside the restaurant; voices talking happily and laughter echoing in the air.

"Are you drunk?" Emma asked.

"Just tipsy, she admitted. "Why did you call? Is something the matter?"

"I just got back from a business trip and wanted to check on you," Emma said, they haven't talked for a week, so she was worried, "How are you? How's work?"

"I'm fine, we're having a dinner party tonight to welcome our department's new Marketing Director. Sera looked up at the stars, wanting to tell her that she's living with Sebastian again but deciding to tell her in person. "Do you remember the guy who saved me? The one who have called you on my phone?"

"Yeah but what about him?"

"Well... He's my new boss she chuckled. "What a great coincidence, right?"

"Seriously? That sounds like a plot twist straight out of a romance novel, Emma said, her voice amused. "Is he handsome though? What if he's your

new love interest? You know, just what always happened in the books.”
Sera laughed.

“Nah, I don’t think so; after what happened, I don’t see myself falling in love again any time soon,” Sera replied, flinching as she looked at the restaurant’s door, where Primo was standing, staring her. They exchanged a brief stare before she averted her gaze and focused on the phone call.

“Anyway, I’ll call you back later. I need to go back inside.”

“Okay, don’t drink too much. You know you have a terrible drunken habit,” Emma reminded her, and Sera chuckled again.

I’ll behave. She hung up the phone and tucked it back into her pocket, watching Primo light his cigarette near the alleyway as he leaned against the wall. She pursed her lips and looked around before approaching him.

“Sir,” she said, making Primo puff on his cigarette before blowing it on the air and looking down at her due to their height difference

“What’s the matter, Ms. Rodriguez?” he inquired, his free hand resting on his pocket. Sera stared at him for a moment, puzzled as to how someone could look so attractive while smoking. He’s a real eye candy, she thought before clearing her throat.

“Uh, I was just wondering if you were married or in a relationship?” she wondered, wanting to make sure she’s not entering a forbidden zone by being involved with him.

“Is that the kind of impression you have of me?” he smirked, making Sera gulp, “I won’t ask a young and single woman like you to be at my beck and call if I’m already in any relationship with other woman.”

“R-really? That’s a relief then, I just wanted to make sure because I don’t want to get involved in some dirty affair,” she averted her gaze when she noticed how intense his green eyes had become. He pulled on his cigarette again and hummed before speaking again to get her attention back.

“Don’t worry, I’ve never been in a relationship, and I have no intention of doing so,” he said, letting out a breath as he looked her in the eyes, “At least, until the woman I desire falls completely in love with me.”

SEND GIFT

Chapter 10

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ARE YOU SURE you can go home alone?” Jacob asked Sera as he held

Lara up by the waist so she wouldn't fall over from dizziness.

"Yeah, I'm not that drunk, so take care of Lara instead; she's barely conscious, and you live in the same neighborhood anyway," she replied, her vision hazy but trying to remain composed. She said she wouldn't drink much, but with everything going on, she couldn't control herself, especially since she'd been wanting to drink for a while.

"All right, let me hail you a cab he insisted, but she shook her head.

"It's fine, I have to stop by a café first," she said, and Jacob just nodded because it appears Sera has another plan for tonight. He simply said goodnight to his friend before heading home with Lara. Sera watched them leave with a smile, then turned to walk towards an alleyway where Primo was waiting for her.

She really doesn't want to go back to Sebastian's house tonight, so when Primo invited her to drink coffee with him earlier, she immediately agreed. Fortunately, everyone had already gone home, so no one would see her sneaking into her boss' car.

"You okay?" he asked when she finally got inside and slumped down on the passenger seat like a deflated balloon. Her cheeks were flushed red, and her composure was almost completely shattered. It was difficult to act sober when she could barely keep herself upright.

"Sorry, sir. Can I close my eyes for a moment? Everything's spinning..."

She muttered quietly as she closed her eyes. Primo chuckled and stared at her as he tapped the steering wheel with the tip of his finger.

"Go ahead, I'll wake you when we get to the cafe," he said, but she didn't respond other than mumble something unintelligible. It's not that she's sleepy, or even tired, but the dizziness is too much for her to hear. She feels like she'll throw up once she opens her eyes again,

"Do you want to go to the seaside instead? I know a cafe there that will calm you down." Primo offered gently, watching her nod slowly. He smiled and concentrated on driving, knowing she's too dizzy to even speak

"Sir," she abruptly broke the silence.

"Just call me Primo, we're not in the office," he said, and she blinked slowly at him before speaking again.

"Primo," she called, her voice so sweet and gentle that Primo almost hit the brakes. He felt something inside him that he hadn't expected to feel. She simply called her by his name, but the effect it had on him made his heart

race. He just wanted to grab her face and plant several kisses on it or worse, pounce on her.

“Yes?” he asked, attempting to sound calm and collected, but failing miserably as his tone sounded a little more urgent than usual. “What is it, Sera?”

“This is a convertible car, right? Can you open the roof for me?”

“Of course, Primo chuckled, expecting her to say something important. He pressed the button, and the roof folded, revealing the night sky. Sera sighed deeply as she felt the breeze on her face. The cool air soothed her burning cheeks and helped her body relax

“Does it make you feel better?” he asked, noticing how her eyelids flutter as she enjoys the cool breeze against her skin. She looked calm, relaxed, and content. Her lips are curved into the most beautiful smile ever. A small grin tugged at his own lips. at the sight.

“Very much,” she said quietly, looking up at the sky. She hadn’t enjoyed the night scenery outside in a long time. When she married Sebastian, all she did was go to work and come straight home so she could do her wifely duties. She only gets to drink when there is a company dinner or when she invites Emma to drink at their house while Sebastian is away for business trips.

Being single again made her realize how much time and dedication she put into her marriage, how much effort she put into being a good wife to Sebastian. She thought doing all that would make their marriage strong and work, but it turned out that it was for naught when he cheated on her.

Mon, 25

Chapter 101

“Do you feel sober now?” Primo asked when they arrived at the cafe. He shut the roof and parked the car near the tree.

“A little,” she said as she unbuckled her seatbelt. She then looks at Primo and notices that his hair is disheveled from the wind, which makes her chuckle softly.

“Shall we go?” he asked, unlocking the door before opening it.

“Wait,” Sera said, stopping him from leaving. Primo stiffened at the unexpected contact and turned around, perplexed.

“Your hair’s a little messy, do you want me to fix it for you?” she wondered, after all, she was the one who suggested opening the roof earlier. Before he had a chance to reply, she leaned forward and gently ran her fingers

through his hair, smoothing them down.

“Why is your hair so long?” she asked, admiring how lovely it was even though it was styled in a manbun. She could tell it was smooth and healthy compared to hers.

“Someone told me they like my hair, so I tried to grow it longer, he replied, looking at her as she fixes his hair seriously. “Do you think I should cut it?”

“No, I don’t see why you need to cut it. It looked se*y- Sera stopped herself mid-sentence and blushed profusely. Given how she blabbered her mouth, she assumed the alcohol was still in her system. She just cleared her throat and withdrew her Hand from his hair, looking away shyly, “T-ler’s go, sir.” Prino grinned as he rubbed his mouth in amusement. He then followed her as she got out of the car. They walked side by side until they reached the cafe, which has a second floor with a better view of the city lights from across the bay

The place wasn’t packed so it wasn’t that noisy, and they managed to get a good spot. Once they sat down, they both ordered drinks, with Primo requesting tea and Sera opting for hot chocolate to wash away the aftertaste of the alcohol.

“Can I ask you a personal question?” Sera asked as they waited for their drinks, Primo leaned against his chair, a cool breeze blowing in his face. The sea waves hitting the shore made the atmosphere quite soothing and relaxing

“Only if I get to ask you one back, Primo replied, a small smirk playing on his lips, making her consider whether or not to ask this question. But then, what was the harm in doing so?

“Okay, then I’ll ask first,” she said, and he just humed, waiting for her to continue. “What’s the reason yo relationship you haven’t been in a

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