Chapter 17 I Have Time for You Tonight

Cathy's lips parted to disagree, but Adrian quickly stuffed a spoonful of rice into her mouth, stopping her from speaking.

At this moment, Cathy had no choice but to chew and swallow.

She tried to reason with them again but was immediately silenced by another spoonful of vegetables. With Adrian's help, she quickly accepted her fate and finished her meal despite her initial rejection.

She had no choice – she was hurt, and the perpetrator was Adrian.

While she ate, she looked up to observe the man before her.

He may be cold and distant, but he was gentle when he fed her slowly.

The light covered him with a dim glow, accentuating his handsome features. This also made her heart flutter.

This was Adrian Bolton, her husband. Cathy stared so long and hard that she forgot to open her mouth to allow Adrian to feed her.

"Why do you stare at dad, Mom?" Abner's giggle broke through Cathy's daydream, making her realize that Adrian was waiting for her to open her mouth with a twinkle in his eye.

He knew that she lost herself staring at him and the thought of him laughing at her made her blush.

"I'm done!" She managed to stutter.

"Okay."

Without a pause, Adrian ate the leftover rice in Cathy's bowl and continued with his dinner using her utensils.

Cathy's eyes widened with shock. If Adrian used her spoon, wouldn't that mean that we had an indirect kiss?

"Are you unwell? Why are you so flushed?" The corners of Arius' usually downturned lips twitched with delight when he observed Cathy.

Cathy touched her face gingerly and pulled back with alarm when she realized how hot it was.

"I'm going up to rest!" She stammered as she jogged up the stairs.

However, her jittery nerves distracted her from ascending the stairs carefully, causing her to accidentally hit the railings with her bandaged wrist.

"Ouch!"

She had to bite back a scream of pain as tears began to gather at the corner of her eyes.

Arius and Abner dropped their utensils as they ran towards her. "Mom!"

Cathy grabbed her sore wrist as she turned back to comfort them. "I'm fine. I will be more careful next time. I'm not a child—"

Before she could finish her sentence, she missed a step, and she began to fall.

Knowing that she would be tumbling down the stairs, she shut her eyes and braced herself for the inevitable pain.

What an embarrassing moment!

Instead of the sharp corners of the stairs, she felt a hand grabbing her waist and pulling her into a warm embrace.

Adrian's sweet scent filled her mind. When Cathy's eyes fluttered open, she saw his sharp jawline and muscular neck.

"How cool was that!"

Leaping back into his seat, Abner sipped on his fruit juice and gave his father a thumbs-up, showing his approval.

"How manly! Do you agree, Arius?"

Arius nodded and returned to his meal before mumbling, "He would be manlier if he could carry mom back to her room."

Cathy stared at the boy and wondered if they were instigating Adrian into carrying her upstairs.

"These children... They may be young, but they are not innocent."

Adrian harrumphed as he picked Cathy up and carried her upstairs.

Cathy's heart quivered, then began to throb as Adrian's scent and warmth filled her senses.

This was the first time a man held her so closely ever since the incident five years ago, which was when she started to reject any contact with men.

Xavier pretended to respect her, but the reason he did not touch her was that he had lost his heart to someone else.

Why would she reject Xavier, a man she had been in love with for five years, and yet almost adore it when Adrian touched her?

Cathy's heart began to race when she thought about how much she liked him as Adrian carried her to the bedroom door.

As he reached for the door, Cathy felt her body drop slightly and instinctively reached around his neck.

However, the moment she circled her arms around his neck, her lips brushed against his cheek, causing both parties to freeze with shock.

A moment later, Adrian took a deep breath to compose himself as he entered the room.

Approaching the bed, he dropped her gently onto the bed.

After the accidental kiss in the hallway, Cathy's lips were on fire. And her mind was a jumbled mess when a deep voice cut through her mind.

"Cathy. How could a clumsy person like you become a stuntperson?" Adrian asked with glee tinged in his voice.

She looked up to meet a pair of smiling eyes and gaped. She never knew that his ocean eyes could light up so beautifully and only came back to the present after a moment when she remembered his question.

"I am not always this clumsy."

She was only clumsy when she was with him because he would fill her mind.

"Do you mean that you are pretending to be clumsy now?" He jibed.

"No!" Cathy shook her head, making Adrian smile a little. "How could you explain what happened?"

Cathy froze, not knowing how to explain herself – then they heard something click into place at the room door.

Someone had locked the room door from the outside.

"Dad, take care of mom!" Abner yelled from beyond the door.

Before sitting up, Cathy blinked at the door with confusion. She shouted, "Abner, stop playing around! Your dad might have work to do tonight! You cannot lock him inside the room! Open the door!"

The panic in Cathy's voice and the fervent rejection in her eyes made Adrian frown. "You look very reluctant to spend time with me."

Cathy nearly gasped when she heard Adrian's spot-on deduction. "No! I was worried that you would be busy."

"I won't be."

Before putting his hands on her hips and leaning towards her, Adrian approached her slowly.

His presence overwhelmed her, making Cathy take a few steps back only to fall onto the bed like a prey trapped by a predator.

Adrian lifted her chin as he whispered, "There are no meetings, and I don't intend to work. My time is for you, and you only."

His gaze swept across her collarbones and the memory of her in the bathtubs crept into his mind.

"Do you remember what happened that night?" Adrian growled.

Cathy was confused, but when she looked into his eyes, she realized what he was talking about and swallowed nervously.

"I..." Before she could complete her sentence, Adrian claimed her lips.