

Chapter 6 You should divorce Alex!

I slowly opened my eyes.

I was no longer at home. The white ceiling and walls were exposed to me, and the various stitches in my hand. I was in a hospital room.

I don't know how I got here. I don't remember anything other than the sudden darkness around me last night.

I now lowered my gaze to the foot of the bed. I saw my cousin, Ishani, in a denim jacket, fixing the white sheet covering half of my body.

She also turned to me, and I saw her brave face. I wanted to hug her. She was here. She wasn't really disappearing at times when I needed her.

She smiled at me and approached me while stroking my hair. "Oh, how are you feeling? Are you still alive?"

I smiled bitterly. She really talks like a boss.

I felt myself first. My head hurt, but the pain in my left arm and shoulder was more predominant.

"It's pretty okay," I replied. "But my shoulder still hurts."

"Because it's swollen. It doesn't matter, and later the nurse might give you a painkiller."

I nodded and looked around the room again. There was no one else here but us.

"Where's Alex?" I asked.

She rolled her eyes. "Do you really want me to answer your question? I'm sure it's a womanize again. That's what he always does, right?"

She left my side after that. She went to the table not far away and began to place the fruits and other foods from the brown paper bag on it.

I just sighed. I was used to the sharpness of her tongue when it came to Alex.

She was distant from my husband. From the beginning, she did not want to get married to Alex. And that only got worse when she found out what Alex was doing to me.

"I don't know where your husband is," she said later. "He's not here when I come back here. That's really crazy, ha. I said I was just going to buy something outside, but the animal still left. He even made me your guardian. Is that right, huh? I don't know what that trip in life is with your husband."

I averted my eyes. "Did he bring me here?"

"Yes."

I smiled bitterly. Somehow, he still didn't leave me even though I was guilty again.

"Early this morning, he called me," Ishani continued. "It's so confusing; I don't know! I'm going to hang up the phone. In case he mentioned that you're here. Of course, can I ignore you?"

"Thank you. I appreciate that you are helping Alex even though I know you don't like him."

She rolled her eyes upwards again. "What did your husband do to you, huh? I asked that man earlier, but he didn't answer me. He's been able to walk out a few times today. What, he's not really stopping hurting you?"

I sighed. I remember again what happened. "She's mad at me again. It's my fault. I met Zeke."

She was stunned. It took her a while to speak again. "Did you meet?"

I nodded. "He's back. He suddenly went to my house and blackmailed me. I really couldn't do anything if I didn't meet. Alex found out, so he got angry again."

"So, he hit you like that?" She pointed to my shoulder. "Alyssa, even if you're at fault, he still doesn't have the right to lay hands on you. He doesn't look like a man!"

"I'm the one who triggered him. He's really mad at me. I could see it in his eyes last night. If only he had the heart to listen. I can explain it to him. I know what I did was wrong; I shouldn't keep it a secret again. But I can make him understand that Zeke and I just met to talk. I'm just really stuck."

"Oh, Alyssa, no matter what explanation you make to your husband, he won't listen. His mind is closed. You're the one, too. I've been saying for a long time that you should divorce Alex. You won't win an award for your martyrdom."

I just sighed again. There she was again. She just kept telling me that. Actually, this was always our topic whenever we met.

"Don't tell me you still can't really divorce him?" she asked.

"You know I can't. I'm not as brave as you."

"You can't because you love him?"

I nodded.

"You really love him, and you're not happy. Isn't it a pity? That's the drawback of an arranged marriage and getting married early. If I'm really on your position, I'll break up. You're still young, Alyssa. There is so much more that can happen to you."

I closed my eyes. "Alex is okay. It's really hard for him to control, and his head heats up quickly. But he's okay as long as I just follow everything he wants."

"Can you don't defend him anymore? We both know he's not okay. All of these aren't okay. He hurts you; is that normal? Tsk, I really don't know about you. Why you have to torture yourselves like that. You just have to separate. If you really want it, you can afford to annul your marriage in just a snap. What else is your money for?"

"I don't think annulment is the right solution. I know the day will come,

and we will be fine too. One day, he will learn to completely forgive me."

"When will that be? Maybe the crow will turn white sooner." She sighed once and round her eyes. "It's also because he's narrow-minded about his spouse. Yes, we're already there; you were wrong because you had an affair with his friend. But my God, Alyssa, can't he even really forgive? If he plants anger, you think he's perfect. He makes mistakes too, right?"

"You know the entire story, Ishani, and that's not easy to forgive and forget. At least for his part. If only you had seen his reaction then. I really thought he was going to kill Zeke and me."

She shook her head as if she no longer knew what else to say. "I don't know. I don't think I could ever understand your husband. I don't know what's going on in your husband's brain. From the beginning, I knew that he really had an attitude problem. He's a sick man! It's a good thing I didn't agree to marry him."

I closed my eyes again and gave my mind a rest.

The way she said the last few lines, it made me realize how complicated my life is. Ishani was really the one who should marry Alex and not me.

One of us had to marry the heir of Hampton's businesses just to survive in the hotels our family-owned. And because she was the oldest of our cousins, she was chosen to do that. But Ishani's tough in nature. She rebelled and fled to Paris so that she would not be able to marry Alex.

Except she didn't want Alex, she didn't want to tie to him. Ishani was an eager lady. He has a lot to do and achieve in life. And she feels the marriage will take her away from the things she wants. So, she left everything to me. She begged me to marry him because she knew I had loved Alex ever since.

I had no regrets about my marriage. I almost thanked Ishani then for leaving, and I took on the responsibility that should have been hers.

At that time, my parents were still hesitant if they would continue the fixed marriage. They thought I was too young back then to enter a married life. I was just 21 when I married Alex. I just graduated from college. But they had no choice.

"Are you hungry?" Ishani suddenly asked me. She was already standing

here by the bed.

"Not yet," I replied.

"Eat this fruit even a little."

I nodded and just watched her as she sliced the apple.

Sometimes, I couldn't help but be jealous here of my cousin. She was free to do anything she wanted, while me, I was stuck in a broken marriage that I didn't know if it was okay yet.

If I were as brave as she was, I would also leave and leave Alex. But no. I couldn't bear to lose my husband. I couldn't even see him with another woman.

"Oh, eat now." Ishani suddenly handed me a slice of apple.

I accepted and ate.

"You should get well soon," she said. "Your birthday is coming up. You're still in the hospital."

I took a deep breath. "Yeah, right."

"What else are you planning? Where are you going to celebrate?"

"I don't know yet. But I would have liked to go home to Mom."

"Will your husband allow you?"

"That's it. Maybe not. I still can't tell him." I leaned my head back and proceeded to eat the apple.

While chewing, I suddenly remembered something. "Ishani, what did the doctor say? Why did I suddenly lose consciousness last night? What's wrong with me?"

"Stupidity." She laughed at the same time.

I just looked at her.

"Joke!" she took it back immediately. "Just a joke. It's over fatigue. You know, it looks like I really wanted to question the doctor when he said

that. Over fatigue? You're just at home; how come you're over fatigued? Your husband is really making you too tired, 'no?' She even shook her head that she was obviously really disappointed with the doctor's diagnosis.

I looked down at my stomach and caressed it. "I thought I was pregnant."

She suddenly laughed again, so I immediately turned my gaze back to her. "Why are you laughing at me?"

"You're crazy! How can you get pregnant? Didn't you say you have hormonal problems?"

"I'm fine. My period is regular now, and I know it's possible for me to get pregnant."

"So you want to get pregnant? Why, do you think when you get pregnant, your husband will be nice to you?"

"Why not?"

"Gosh! What's that? Do you have to get pregnant just for him to be nice? Sorry for the word, but that's bullshit. He is your husband. Isn't it his obligation to be nice to you?"

I would have answered, but I couldn't because the door of this room suddenly opened.

Ishani and I looked around at the same time to find out who had come.

It's my husband.

My cousin immediately rolled her eyes while I looked in the other direction.

I would have liked to be happy because Alex was back, but my nervousness and fear were more prevalent. I know he was still mad at me even though he started me here in the hospital.

"Oh, your good husband is here," Ishani said. "I must be going, girl."

My eyes widened! She spoke like Alex wasn't there.

"There, you two should talk," she added, pointing at Alex at the same time. "That sensible conversation Alex, huh. You, you! Alas, when you hit Brownie again, I'm the one who's really going to beat you up."

Irritated, Alex shook his hand. "Shut up. Who are you to talk to me like that?"

And I knew my cousin so well, and I knew he wouldn't back down from Alex.

She crossed her arms and raised an eyebrow. "Who am I? I'm the only one you called to watch over your wife, who was hospitalized because of you."

"Ishani." I said because I knew they wouldn't stop. Maybe my husband's head heated up again, and what else could she do. "All right, get out first. We'll talk."

She didn't speak again and left the room with her bag. She even glared at Alex before finally leaving.

I was just shaken. Then watched Alex, who followed Ishani's gaze.

Alex didn't like my cousin's personality. That's why he didn't agree when I wanted to meet Ishani. He said that I might be infected by her habit and talkativeness. Ishani isn't really talkative. It's just a fight, especially if she knows she's in the right.

Alex approached me afterward. I still held my breath as I looked at him. But he didn't look at me. He frowned and just stared to the side.

When he came here next to the bed, he almost just gave me a hard time. "It's good that you woke up. I'm so bored; I want to go home."

I cringed with sadness. I was already lying here in the hospital; he still speaks like that.

But I just ignored it and tried to reach for his hand. "Alex, sorry for what happened."

He avoided. He took a deep breath, then just glanced at his watch. "I'm giving you five minutes to explain." Then he sat in the chair next to my bed

and just stared at the opposite wall.

I jumped first in shock. I don't know how I'm going to speak. It's up to him whether he accepts or not, as long as I explain.

"Zeke just really forced me to meet him," I began. "I didn't know what to do. He said if I didn't meet him, he wouldn't stop coming to my house. I didn't know at first how he found out my number and where we lived. I didn't even know he was already back here in the country. I didn't want to meet him, Alex, believe me."

"Why didn't you just tell it to me? Why do you have to keep it a secret?"

"I know you won't allow it."

He laughed as if teasing. "How did you know? You've never tried to say anything to me. You always do what you want."

I fell silent.

It was not that I didn't want to say anything to him, but I knew he really wouldn't let me. And besides, back then, he didn't really care about what I wanted to do.

"What did you do outside?" he asked.

"We just talked."

"What were you talking about?"

"I told him to stop me because it's all over now. But-"

He turned to me. "But?"

I closed my eyes before continuing to answer. "He didn't want to agree. He said he would take me from you."

He was badly cursed!

I just closed my eyes tightly. "I-I'm sorry. I know you'll get mad, but I want to tell you the truth this time."

He never answered me again. Suddenly he went to the door and put both

his hands on the closed door. I could clearly see his heavy breathing as if he was holding back his anger.

"Son of a bastard, what else does he want." His fists were trembling. "Why can't he just get out of our lives? He already ruined everything!"

"Alex, that was a year ago. Can we just forget about it? L-let's just move on and continue our life."

He turned to me and looked evil. "Just forget it? Do you hear what you're saying, Alyssa?"

"Please calm down. I'm not fighting."

"Fuck it, because you thought everything was superficial! I'm trying to forget, but I can't. Everything keeps coming back to my brain. That incident keeps chasing me. I'm about to go crazy!" He closed his eyes tightly to control himself. "Every time I look at you, I don't see the woman who married me. All I see is the cheating you did."

My tears flowed spontaneously. My chest suddenly seemed to tighten. It hurts to think that he just looks at me like that now.

He went back to sitting next to the bed and frantically rubbed both his palms on his face. Then he looked at me. Throughout our conversation, only now was he able to stare into my eyes.

"You don't know how much you hurt me." His voice was trembling. And I could also clearly see the trembling of his eyebrows. "When I caught you and him, it killed me!"

He almost cringed when he said that. I was so stunned that it was as if he wanted to get lost and kick everything he could see.

I just closed my eyes again so hard that my tears flowed even more.

"I got hurt," he continued. "And until now, I'm still hurting. I never thought I would feel this kind of pain and even because of my own wife."

He then grasped his hair out of frustration and anger. He almost banged his head on the wall. "I still couldn't believe it happened. How could you do that to me? Zeke was my friend! You fooled me!" He stood up and slapped the table next to him.

I could do nothing but cry. I felt my chest squeeze in pain. I could feel my husband's heartache. And it was all my fault.

I didn't know that he was feeling so heavy. We didn't have the chance to talk about it before. I think he was avoiding it then. He probably didn't want to remember. So, he poured out all his anger by hurting me. Maybe that's why we are still like this until now.

"And now that asshole is back." He turned to me with a mixture of anger and fear in his eyes. "And he'll take you away from me. How can I be sure you won't go with him?"

I could not answer. Suddenly the door of this room opened again.

My cousin Ishani was then thrown out, pulling back a man I would not have wanted to see this time.

"Zeke!"

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