Loving You In Secret by Debbie Meza

Chapter 101

Just when Vicky was about to repeat herself, Tyler answered, "Six."

Vicky was relieved. "What do you feel like eating? I'll cook for you."

"Anything," came Tyler's indifferent response before he hung up, giving Vicky no room to say anything.

Vicky's heart no longer hung on a thread. Luckily, he did not consider having a divorce because of this, even though he was unhappy.

In fact, it was normal if he wanted to divorce her. The law did state it was part of the right and obligation for a married couple to have regular intimate moments. If one party refused to fulfill the obligation of being a married couple, the other half had the right to request a divorce.

Vicky did not want that to happen, but...she was just not ready.

Other than spending that night in the study, Tyler did go back to sleep in the bedroom for the rest of the night, though he never touched her again. If it was unnecessary, he would not even say anything to her—not even a word.

would go to the other restroom to take

would still return home to have dinner. He would still accept her call when she called him. However, if she had nothing important to say,

could not give him what he wanted for the

month passed. Everything was

he would be home. However, on this particular day, she was told he

home for dinner. As the CEO of Hart Corporation, it was normal that Tyler could not go home for dinner with so much work and business

home for dinner for the rest of the days, and he returned later each day. One day, he did not return home for

fall asleep and stayed up

Cece's voice beside Vicky's

and regained her senses. "What were

look. "Are you not

unconsciously and forced a smile onto her face. "I'm alright. I

with Mister Hart again?"

Being a few years younger than Vicky, Cece had a simple and cheerful personality, her eyes clear and full of vigor. After working with Vicky for quite some time, she knew what kind of person Vicky was, especially after Vicky lost her memory. It was easier to get to know her more.

Before Vicky lost her memory, her eyes always seemed to be covered with a layer of fog, and no one could hardly see her eyes clearly. Cece thought

Vicky had many hidden secrets in her heart which caused her to build a wall to fend people off.

After Vicky lost her memory, the fog in her eyes disappeared. Her emotion was more obvious and noticeable too.

Vicky was stunned before she answered, "I ...don't think so."

She never truly fought with Tyler before.

"Can you tell me what happened? I had been in a few relationships before," said Cece. "Perhaps I can give you some advice."

Vicky hesitated for a while before she asked, "Cece, is it normal that no man can accept a platonic marriage in the long run?"

Chapter 102

"Frankly speaking," Cece answered carefully, "any normal woman won't accept it, either. Sometimes, it's a way to keep the relationship and a way to bond."

Cece looked at the depressed-looking Vicky and asked softly, "Vicky, do you think Mister Hart is a stranger, and you can't accept him for the time being after you lost your memory?"

Instead of answering instantly, Vicky asked in return, 'Do you know under what situation a person would reject intimacy with their loved one when the person doesn't actually dislike having contact with her lover?'

Cece gave it a good thought and said, 'If it's me...I won't hate him, but I'd refuse to touch him. If there are no other reasons...then it's probably because I'm afraid to fall further and love someone I shouldn't love."

Vicky fell silent once more.

Since Vicky's mood did not improve, Cece tried to cheer her up and thus said, "I saw a video about a new bar that just opened in the city last night. There's a very talented girl working there, and she's very popular right now. What about I take you there tonight to relax?"

Vicky thought she would be alone if she went back, and that would be rather depressing. Thus, she accepted the offer and nodded.

is always fully booked because of her. The bar was just a middle-range bar, but because of

Vicky interested in the

pretty?" she

heard she won men's hearts with her talent. She could play the piano so well that she captured many

stunned.

the bar at night. Among all the other performances like hot dance and singing, Nikki's performance is unique. All she had to do was play the piano,

more Cece talked about this Nikki girl, the more

... i

the bar. As

quiet. Although there were many people,

heard the performance starts at 8:10 p.m.,' said Cece in a hushed tone." It's

to the seats reserved for them. After looking around, Vicky discovered there were many female guests in the bar too. Almost the

She asked, "Cece, how did you reserve the seats if the bar is so popular right now?"

Cece looked at her. "Roughly a year ago, we came here for a drink. A customer was giving a waitress a hard time, but you helped her out. After that, she got promoted to

manager. She specially reserved these seats for us when she knew you wanted to come."

As Cece was talking, the lights on the stage suddenly dimmed, and the bar became even quieter. A few minutes later, the lights were back on as a young girl dressed in a white dress sat elegantly in front of a piano.

She had a pretty face and an elegant temperament. Nothing about her suggested that she performed in a bar. On the contrary, she looked regal as though she was a goddess from heaven. 1

The spotlight was on her, and it made her face-one that was only glammed with minimal makeup-even purer. She was totally out of tune with the ambiance in this bar. i

Soon, she started to play the piano, and the piece she played sounded alluring and comfortable like it could purify a person's heart.

When the song finished, the bar was in a few seconds of dead silence before a round of thunderous applause followed swiftly.

When Cece regained her senses, she began to gush. 'I don't know anything about piano, but...just by listening to her, I feel it's so melodious. She's really good! No wonder she's so popular."

Chapter 103

Vicky nodded. "Yes. She must've at least learned to play the piano for ten years."

Cece turned and looked at Vicky, "Vicky, you know how to play the piano?"

The question caught Vicky off-guard. "I...don't."

It was just a reflex of hers to say that after hearing what Cece said.

Cece did not think too much of it. It was normal for Vicky to learn how to play the piano since she was born into a wealthy family. However, she never saw Vicky play the piano after knowing her for so many years.

As they both chatted, they heard a man gruffly yelling, and it sounded like it was happening ahead of them.

"Why are you pretending to be so noble and pure when you know you're performing in a bar?"

looked over in the direction

grip while he scolded her, "Are you not drinking with me just because you

Nikki tried to pull her hand from the man. "Mister Larson, I'm not an escort. Please

He bowed and apologized, "Mister Larson, Nikki doesn't know how to drink. If you want

want her to

make this bar vanish from tomorrow

squinted.

the disgusted feeling that rose in her. "The fish stinks from the head. This

past, Cece accidentally hurt Hector because the man tried to molest her. In a twist of fate, she got locked in prison and suffered

Mister Larson, so much so that a few rich kids who wanted to play the hero

the Hart family in this city, and no one dared to cross the

Mister Larson

care. I'm taking you with me, and you

was so scared that her face

"Mister Larson, please. I'm only here to perform. Please let go of me!"

Alas, Mister Larson ignored her and continued to drag her outside.

It seemed like this was the first time Nikki was in such a situation. She screamed at the top of her lungs and tried to fight against Mister Larson while hoping someone would help her.

"Mister Lidell, save me!

"Call the police, please! Someone, please call the police!"

No one dared to say a thing. Not even Mister Lidell dared to save her.

As Nikki put up a fight and struggled against his hold, Mister Larson finally lost his patience, raised his hand, and slapped her.

"B*tch! I tried to be nice to you, but you didn't appreciate it! I'm going to do anything that I want with you. Let's see if anyone dares to say otherwise!"

Chapter 104

Nikki's clean face became swollen with an obvious handprint visible on her skin. Mister Larson grabbed her hair and tore her clothes rudely.

"Let go of me! Let go!" Nikki shrieked in terror. "Please! Someone, save me! Ah!"

The more Nikki struggled, the more agitated Mister Larson was, which worsened his behavior. The only thing people heard in the bar was Mister Larson's evil laughter and Nikki screaming at the top of her lungs.

When Mister Larson raised his hand and was about to slap Nikki again, someone grabbed his hand. It was followed by a man's voice, deep and dark.

"That's enough." His voice was alluring and melodious like the sound of the piano.

Mister Larson, at this moment, was lost in himself and could hardly listen to what people said. He raised his head and looked at the man with his reddened eyes and face contorted in fury. "Who the f*ck are you to butt into my business? You..." 1

caught

Larson, I think you have too much to drink. Why don't you

Mayland would play three songs every night, and she had just

face changed. If Tyler knew Nikki played three songs every night, that meant...he was here

the past few days, Mister Larson was here to support Nikki

of proud and smart temperament that the other

Larson did not plan on sleeping with her so soon, but Nikki was too stubborn

thought of teaching Nikki a lesson. Who knew

managed to force a smile. "Ah, Mister Hart...you like her too, it seems. If that's the case, I won't be as bold

offend the Larson family, Mister Larson did not dare to offend Tyler. He knew very well how cruel and ruthless Tyler

If Tyler was not around, Harvey would have dominated Stoneford City in the past.

After Mister Larson left, the bar fell silent.

With the help of the dimmed lights in the bar, Nikki lifted her head to look at the tall, handsome, and noble man in front of her. For a moment, she thought she saw God himself.

She knew who this man was; she heard the other hostesses discuss him before. They said his name was Tyler Hart, a big shot no one dared to offend in this city.

Ever since she got popular for playing the piano, this man would come every day just to listen to her play. Unlike the other rich guys, this man never asked for her number and never asked her to drink with him.

He was very quiet, so quiet like he was never there. It was very contradicting because his existence was hard to ignore.

Tyler looked down and saw Nikki staring at him.

Chapter 105

Nikki was probably traumatized, more so by the way her eyes looked dull and unspiritual.

Tyler noticed how her torn clothes were torn and thus threw his blazer at her. "Put it on."

Only then did Nikki regain her senses and noticed her ripped clothing. She quickly put on Tyler's blazer and said, blushing, "Thank you."

Mister Lidell, the bar manager, was in shock before he reacted. He quickly approached to express his gratitude before he brought Nikki away.

The crowd began to discuss the matter.

"I didn't know Tyler Hart was here, too..."

"Yeah. Nikki is so lucky. If he wasn't here today, no one could save her."

though. Tyler comes here almost every day.

No wonder that lustful Mister Larson

heard rumors about Tyler

business' image, a show for everyone to see. Hart Corporation is doing so well, but Tyler has so much negative news reporting about him. The

Nikki has Tyler protecting her... Who'd dare take her from

The discussion was non-stop.

at the right distance where everything happened.

She then turned and looked at the silent Vicky. "Vicky, don't listen to them. They're just making things up. I don't see Mister Hart showing any interest in Nikki. He just saved

I saw Mister Larson, I was so furious that I wanted to punch him! Sadly, I cant be a busybody in

said Vicky, stopping

After a few seconds, she said softly, "Vicky, it's a good thing that you believe in Mister Hart. But...it doesn't hurt to put your guard up. Mister Hart might not be interested in those women, but he is handsome and prestigious. Any woman would have

worsen her mood, so she tried to say the good stuff before reminding

did not feel threatened or

who's very talented with

"Everyone who knows Mister Larson knows what kind of person he is. If he had his way with Nikki, she would probably survive, but she might have a brush with death... Where will Tyler enjoy listening to someone playing the piano if anything happens to Nikki?" 1

Cece was stunned for a few seconds. "Mister Hart likes to listen to people playing the piano?"

Vicky looked at Tyler, who was back in his seat, and said plainly, "Yes.'

The reason why Tyler wanted to marry Sheila was that she could play the piano very well. After Sheila's hand was injured, the thought of marrying her receded, and he preferred to continue the marriage he had with her.

"But..." The baffled Cece frowned. "I admit that Nikki does play very well, but there must be many others who can play better than her. If Mister Hart wants to listen, well-any maestro in the music industry can play better than she does, no?"

Vicky's pupils went dark after listening to what Cece said.

'Cece is right. If Tyler wants to listen to people playing music, he could've found a proficient pianist to play for him. Nikki is quite pretty, but Tyler could find a woman that's prettier and is better at playing piano than Nikki. So why Nikki?'

After thinking for a few seconds, Vicky's pupils froze. 'Could it be...'

Chapter 106

While Vicky was drowning in her thoughts, Nikki had walked out with a new set of attire. She sat back at the piano and looked at the crowd unconsciously.

When she scanned the crowd and her eyes landed on a particular spot, her eyes lit up as a small smile appeared on her face.

She was a beautiful person that gave off a cold yet regal impression. She would always carry herself with dignity and would swiftly decline when men like Mister Larson invited her to drink.

Obviously, money and power could not attract her, and frankly, she did not give a sh*t to those rich kids who spent money on her just to attract her. Those Enter title...

people only spent their days drinking, enjoying their lives, and causing trouble with their family name.

Useless people. Those who insisted they liked her and admired her talent were only into her beauty. None of them were there to genuinely listen to her playing the piano.

Among those rich people, only Tyler gave her a different kind of feeling. In truth, she noticed him from the first day he came to the bar, and it was a simple reason why she would notice him.

He was too handsome, and there was an aloof yet majestic air to him. He was anything but ordinary.

She had seen the ways men looked at her. There were those who were attracted by her beauty, those who admired her, and some of them who were really just there to look at her.

Tyler was different. The way he looked at her was different from other men. His eyes were deep and dark, full of concentration yet blurred all the same. His eyes looked so deep like the depth of an abyss. There was danger in his eyes, yet it was vitally attractive. He seemed to hold many secrets with him.

Nikki could not describe the feeling she felt. What she did know was that her heart would always skip a beat or two when she saw him.

While she changed into a new set of clothes, her colleague came to her and said, albeit rather enviously, "Nikki, you're in luck today. No one dares to touch you anymore with Tyler Hart protecting you."

"That's right! Everyone in the bar now knows you're Tyler's woman now.' 'Tyler's woman...'

She felt butterflies in her stomach just hearing those words.

Before today, her feelings for Tyler were vague. After he rescued her from Mister Larson, however, something blossomed in her heart.

She played the piano even more seriously today. On normal days, she would only play three songs, but because of Tyler, she played two additional songs. ... 1

After they finished listening to Nikki play, Vicky and Cece left the bar.

Not long after Vicky reached home, Tyler returned, too.

Tyler was always a quiet person. At this moment, they barely spoke a word to each other.

Looking at Tyler entering the washroom, she could not help but remember what

she saw in the bar, and Cece's previous words rang in her mind.

'Mister Hart doesn't look like he's interested in Nikki. He just lent her a hand because she was harassed.'

Lending a hand...

Tyler was not the busybody kind of guy. She had begged her many times and he refused to offend the Larsons by saving Cece because of her.

... 1

Vicky and Tyler entered a weird lifestyle where both of them would go to the bar to listen to Nikki play the piano.

Afraid that she would bump into Tyler when they made their way home, Vicky would always leave before Nikki played the last song.

The lights in the bar were very dimmed. Tyler very seldom asked where Vicky was, so he had no inkling she visited the same bar he did every night.

On a random day, Vicky was slightly late to the bar because of some work matters. When she arrived at the bar, her habit was to look at where Tyler would sit.

On this night, however, it was vacant. 'Is Tyler not coming tonight?' she thought.

Chapter 107

The surprise only lasted for a while.

Tyler was a good CEO and would never allow personal matters to affect his work. Vicky never got him to break this ethic, and neither did Sheila. It seemed Nikki could not do it, too.

Vicky had not discovered any similarities between Sheila and Nikki. They did not look the same, and their temperaments did not match. The only similarity was that they were both skilled in the piano.

However, Vicky did not think Tyler treated them differently just because they could play the piano very well. Thus, she had a feeling it would be something Enter title...

else, one she did not know of.

That was probably why Vicky showed up here every day.

The bar was popular, but Nikki was not the only one who performed for the establishment. There were other performers who would showcase their talents, too.

After finishing a song, Nikki bowed to the audience. When she was leaving the stage, an affluent young man dressed in branded apparel stopped Nikki with a glass of wine in his hand.

"Miss Mayland, do you mind drinking a glass of wine with me?" The guy smiled confidently. "Fifteen thousand dollars for a glass of wine. What do you think?' Nikki hated this type of man the most.

Her gaze hardened. "I'm sorry. I'm not interested."

After that, she walked past the man.

This was not the first time he was here. Due to some family matters, he had not visited for a long time and thus had not heard of how Tyler came to Nikki's rescue.

Nikki had rejected numerous affluent men's invitations to drink together in the

past. Although she did not like them, she behaved politely. Of course, after Tyler saved her, no one dared to invite her for a drink anymore.

She could barely disguise the disgusted feeling she felt when the man- who was evidently pissed that she declined him-approached her.

"You're just a performer in this bar. How dare you treat me that way?!' the man growled and reached for Nikki's hand.

At that moment, a friend of the man heard the commotion and hurried over to stop him. He whispered, "Don't be reckless! She's now Tyler Hart's woman... We can't afford to offend her."

The rich kid was petrified. "What did you say?"

His friend whispered into his ear again. A few minutes later, the man's expression faltered. His eyes were full of fright when he looked at Nikki, and he squeezed out a smile. "I'm sorry, I-I drank too much. Please forgive me for my rudeness."

Nikki, ever the forgiving type, replied, "It's alright. It's just a misunderstanding." The rich kid adhered, "Yes, yes. A misunderstanding…"

Nikki nodded and left proudly.

Vicky sat not far from where it happened, and she witnessed the entire thing. Her lips curled up. 'She's behaving slightly differently from the last time.' When she was backstage, she was surrounded by her colleagues.

"Young Master Jeeves is just the son of a new-money family. He's overreaching by trying to get hold of you from Mister Hart!"

"That's right. People like those stupid idiotic rich kids who think they're the best are everywhere, I tell you!"

"He's lucky that Mister Hart isn't here today. His family would be gone from the city if Mister Hart sees it!"

'Tyler isn't here today,' Nikki thought. Her mood worsened just thinking of that. Suddenly, a pretty young waitress entered the resting room and approached Nikki to whisper into her ear.

Swiftly, Nikki's face soured.

Chapter 108

"Are you sure?" asked Nikki.

The waitress nodded. "Although Tyler's wife is very low-key that we hardly see her, many from the upper class spotted her in the bare. Many rich young masters and young misses have been frequenting this place, and they said they saw her at dinner parties before. That's how they could recognize her."

After a pause, the waitress continued, "I asked the bouncer at the door, and he said..."

The waitress looked at Nikki and lowered her voice even more. "She's here almost every day when Mister Hart was here too."

Enter title...

The expression in Nikki's eyes changed.

Vicky made an exception today and listened to every song Nikki played. Still, Tyler did not appear.

'It seems like Tyler isn't coming today,' she thought. 1

The final performance for the night was normally done by Nikki.

After the performance was finished, Vicky put on her sunglasses and cap to get ready to leave. Suddenly, someone stood in front of her. She looked up and saw a pretty face.

"Miss Shaw." Nikki smiled. "Can we talk?"

Vicky stopped walking. 'Do...you know me?"

Nikki looked at her and said straightforwardly, "You're here to support me every day. I don't think you're not just here to listen to me play. If you have something to say to me, why don't we talk somewhere quietly?"

The crowd was nearly gone at this point, though half of the crowd had not left. They all stopped when they saw Nikki talking to someone. Of course, the lights in the bar were very dim, and they could hardly see each other's faces if they did not look closely.

"Hey, who's that?"

"Tsk, tsk, tsk! She has a wonderful body. Isn't it a new performer? I can't see her face clearly with her sunglasses on, but her facial features tell me she's a beautiful woman." 1

"Why do I feel like she looks so...familiar?"

"Goodness! It's her!"

"What? You know her?"

"Vicky Shaw! Tyler Hart's wife!"

"No way! Is it really her?"

"I'm sure that's her! I saw her a few times. Although she has a bad reputation, she's got a beautiful face and body. I can't be wrong!"

"It seems like she cant stand it any longer when Tyler gets a new girl." i It was fine when no one was noticing her. However, she was easily recognizable when people noticed her.

Vicky noticed the commotion around her. She did not want to be stared at, so she nodded at Nikki.

A busybody saw them leaving and said, "Anyone knows Tyler's phone number? Call him now and tell him his lover is about to be harassed."

Nikki led the way and brought Vicky backstage where no one was around. Vicky took off her sunglasses and examined Nikki from a close distance.

Nikki was still wearing a ladylike dress, her hair untied and without decorations. The makeup on her face was light as usual to emphasize her natural beauty.

Vicky looked at her and asked, "What do you want to talk to me about. Miss Mayland?"

Nikki was examining Vicky, too. Ever since that day, she researched everything about Tyler. In the process, she also got to know many things between him and his wife.

That information was not that much of a secret: Nothing more than Tyler never liking her and wanting to divorce her. It was his wife who kept on bothering him and so on

As she dug more deeply into the matter, Nikki read something about Vicky seducing Tyler, as well as finding the rumor about how she caused Tyler to break up with his first love. There was a lot of news about them, but not a single photo was available.

People who were not from the circle could hardly get to know Vicky. In other words, normal people did not have the right to talk about her.

Nikki only got the information from the news and made an analysis. Vicky loved Tyler but failed to have him, so she pestered him and clung to him, even when the marriage was failing. Vicky had to be a paranoid, crazy, and senseless woman.

Before she saw Vicky, she even thought she was like those desperate housewives who did not have their own world. Instead of finding the real problem, she would crazily stalk other women. Since Vicky failed to keep her man, Nikki presumed Vicky looked average.

Seeing Vicky up-close took her aback. This woman was far different from what she imagined, whether it was her appearance or her temperament. Vicky was beautiful, elegant, and chic.

The way she talked and walked strongly emphasized how noble she was for being born into a prestigious family. Somehow, it made people less confident in front of her.

did not want to look like she was scared in front of Vicky. She calmed herself down and smiled pleasantly. "I thought you had something to say

"What do you think

Vicky's pretentious demeanor. Her tone was starting to be unfriendly. "Miss Shaw, are you here just to enjoy my performance

that's the deal?" Vicky asked

getting late." Nikki looked at her. "Let's cut the

understand

Nikki's face disappeared. "Aren't you here

seconds of silence, Vicky spoke, "And why should

frustrated with how Vicky was

about to say something, Vicky added, "You're not with

look on Nikki's face finally changed. Looking at how Vicky smiled in front of her, she finally

"Are you here to threaten me?"

After a moment of silence, Vicky tilted her head and smiled. "To be honest, Miss Mayland, this is the first time I see a woman so eager to be a mistress."

"You just said I'm not with Mister Hart, yet here you are, calling me a mistress," Nikki commented coldly. "Don't you think what you said is very contradicting?"

Vicky looked into Nikki's eyes and said calmly, "From how I see it, any woman who has the intention to ruin someone's relationship and marriage is a mistress. It doesn't mean you need to actually date someone to be called a mistress."

Nikki's face stiffened. She seemed to have thought of something and gradually calmed herself down, no longer as agitated.

"That's right. I'm not with Mister Hart, and there's no improper relationship between me and him. I'm glad you believe in him. But..."

Nikki paused and looked into Vicky's eyes when she spoke, enunciating every word, "I hope you'll leave him." "You hope that I'll leave him?" Vicky smiled, seeing how unreasonable Nikki thought she was not. "Why?"

Chapter 110

With a flat expression, Nikki said, "I can tell you hate mistresses. If that's the case, why did you contradict yourself? Based on what you said, any woman who has the intention to ruin someone's relationship and marriage is a mistress. Then...you ruined the relationship Mister Hart had with his first love. Arent you also a mistress?"

Vicky's pupils shrunk, and her expression faltered.

Nikki noticed the changes in Vicky's emotions and thus continued, "I believe you know what karma is. The pain you caused to others will sooner or later be bestowed upon you one day."

"Are you telling me you're the one who's going to return the pain to me?' said Vicky with a straight face.

Nikki shook her head. 'Like what you see, Mister Hart is just one of the audience while I'm merely a performer. We never overstep the boundary, so I'm not that person. But, even if it isn't me, it could be someone else. Your marriage is a tragedy because you forced it to happen. Have you ever thought about correcting your mistakes?"

"The correction you mean is for me and Tyler to have a divorce?' Vicky asked.

question directly. "Sometimes, letting go is also a way to show your

I refuse

don't have the right to

so was her tone as she replied," Under what grounds are you talking to me about this? Tyler's

love? Or Tyler's current lover? I think

smile on her face

for being straight. If you never showed up in front of me today, I'd never have stood in front of you and told you this. I know it's not

why I didn't bother when you tried to use my husband

Tyler saved you once? Miss Mayland, you should know

that, Vicky turned around

to you about this now, but I'm talking to you now proves

stopped walking. Looking back, she saw the resolute expression on Nikki's face. "I'm going to make myself shine brightly before my identity becomes

Vicky's gaze wavered. "You sound like you're very confident with yourself."

Nikki shook her head. 'I don't have anything; I'm just a normal person. I have nothing to be confident of.'

"But your action speaks otherwise," Vicky replied.

"Miss Shaw, you're very beautiful and elegant. Even when you're the daughter of a fallen family, you're still someone I can't reach. No matter what, I can't surpass you. But...'

She gazed into Vicky's eyes with complex-looking eyes. "Tyler does not love you."

The girl's confidence baffled Vicky. Anyone with a brain would know what the consequences would be for a woman who just knew Tyler to be arguing with Tyler's legally married wife.

Nikki did not look like a stupid girl. There was no reason she did not know about this unless she knew something.