

Loving You In Secret by Debbie Meza

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Tyler pulled her closer when he spotted the insecure look on Vicky's face." It's alright now.'

Vicky slowly calmed down under his consolation.

The lights inside the room were warm, and so was his expression.

Vicky's heart settled, and she whispered, "I'm okay. Thank you."

"We're married. I'm just doing my duty," he said.

His temperature slowly melted her anxiety, and it was unlike anything she ever experienced before.

'Is this what it means to feel safe?' she thought.

When she woke up the next morning, she was still dazed about what happened. The curtains fluttered slightly in the breeze, and the sunlight shone into the room.

Vicky sat up in the bed and glanced around to find that Tyler was gone.

She got out of bed and opened the curtains when she heard the door opening and a familiar voice following a second later.

"Awake?"

She turned around, feeling slightly shocked. "Why aren't you at work?"

She knew better than anyone about how busy Tyler was with work.

He was dressed in a casual outfit that emphasized his height and did not look as distant as he usually did.

He walked into the room and said, "Yeah, I just want to take a break."

Vicky lowered her gaze as emotions overwhelmed her. ' I'm fine. You don't have to stay home with me."

"There's nothing much going on in the office. I can always work from home. " He walked over to her and took her hand. "Breakfast is ready. Let's head downstairs."

Vicky nodded.

For some reason, Vicky felt like Tyler had become more approachable.

Even when they were trying to work on their marriage in the past, there was still a wall between them, but he no longer seemed as cold.

After breakfast, Tyler looked at Vicky and said, "We haven't found your phone. Do you want to go outside and buy a new one?"

She instantly refused. "I don't want to go outside. Just get someone to buy a new phone for me."

She was traumatized since she was kidnapped, and she did not want to go out.

Tyler did not press on and said, "Sure."

She looked up at his breathtakingly handsome face and said, "Tyler, there's something that I need to tell you."

He narrowed his eyes.

Inside the study, Vicky opened her mouth hesitantly but struggled to get the words out.

Tyler, on the other hand, waited patiently without rushing her.

After a while, she finally summoned enough courage and bit onto her lower lip. “Tyler, there’s something that...I need to clarify.”

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Vicky could have chosen to hide the torment she had gone through.

Forever Night had not told Tyler the truth, and Tyler misunderstood that it was his enemy who kidnapped her, so no one would know unless she said otherwise. However, she could not stand the deception and lies that were crushing her conscience.

“Believe it or not, I wasn’t...” she mumbled. “Tyler, this isn’t about your enemies... I brought this on myself... If you want a divorce...”

Her speech was ruffled and so were her thoughts, so she had no clue what she was saying.

Before she could finish, Tyler held her close, and her eyes widened in shock. He wrapped his arms around her so tightly that she could feel her bones whining.

“I’m sorry,” he said hoarsely into her ear. “You wouldn’t have gone through all that had it not been for me.”

She froze.

“It’s my fault that you want to run from me and get a divorce.” His voice was thick with suppressed emotions.

“Tyler, it’s not like that. The truth is-“

Before she could finish, he interrupted her, “I know what you’re trying to say, Vicky, but I’m not divorcing you no matter what you went through.”

She could not see his face and could only see their entwined shadows on the wall; she could feel her heart beating once again as hope filled her.

“Really?” she questioned in disbelief.

Tyler let her go and looked into her eyes. “I’m sorry, Vicky, for doing such a bad job in protecting you.”

Though it was only a few words, she was set free, and tears filled her eyes.

She had been wary and prejudiced against Tyler ever since she lost her memories. She never truly trusted him nor had she thought of relying on him.

She developed feelings for him once, but those feelings meant nothing in the face of the future and reality.

She weighed the gains and the losses and decided to divorce Tyler, so it was not a reckless decision nor was it the inevitable conclusion due to a failed romance.

She kept a leveled head through every choice she made, but at this moment, she suddenly felt as though the hole inside her heart had been filled.

Vicky looked at the man before her through the tears in her eyes, and he reached out to wipe away her tears.

“None of this is your fault, and you didn’t bring this upon yourself. You can blame me or the person who kidnapped you, but you should never blame yourself,” he said before pulling her back into his arms once again, only gentler this time. “If I abandon my wife simply because she was hurt by others, can I still call myself a man?”

All her pretenses melted away, and she could no longer hold back from breaking down in tears.

She never felt more fragile, and it was at that moment that she finally let her guard down in front of him.

Tyler tapped her back rhythmically and consoled her gently, "Cry if you want to. I'll be here with you forever."

Her tears fell even faster at his words, and her sight was blurred.

She would never expect that all the words that she did not get to say would soon become her nightmare in the foreseeable future, nor had she noticed the dark look in Tyler's eyes as they held onto one another.

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With Tyler's companion, Vicky's emotion soon stabilized, and she was no longer so terrified of darkness.

However, due to the week-long imprisonment she endured, she could not stand to be alone and became rather clingy, but Tyler had not shown any annoyance toward it. He eventually needed to return to the office and could not stay home with her all the time, so he took her to the office with him out of concern that she might have a mental breakdown if she was left alone at home.

It was not the first time she went to Hart Corporation with Tyler, but it was the first time she sat by Tyler even during business meetings.

It was not that she was that desperate for companionship to the point that she could not be alone for a second. She planned on reading a book in his office while he went for the meeting, but Tyler seemed to be worried and insisted that she come along.

Inside the meeting room, the managers and the shareholders traded knowing glances when they saw Vicky next to Tyler, but no one mentioned anything.

In Hart Corporation, Tyler held over 80 percent of the share, and his words were absolute.

The crisis that took place a few years ago gave him the opportunity to gather most of the shares to his possession, and because of that, all the shareholders were confident in his capability.

They never interfered with Tyler's private life because they knew that he would never do anything that would affect the company negatively over women.

Once Tyler took his seat, the managers started to report the latest update in their respective departments.

Tyler had been at home for the past three days and even taken a trip to Lovian before that, but his work had not suffered at all.

They started discussing the contract Tyler had signed in Auran. "Auran seems keen to work with us, and Mister Hart has even raised the profit by five percent by going to the negotiation himself. Once we forge our way into the Auran market, there will be no limits to how far this firm can grow."

The discussion went on cheerfully.

Just then, someone voiced out, "Mister Hart, I've read the proposal you sent us, and I saw that your next step is to buy Mills Group out. The Mills are a powerful family in Stoneford City, but they've shifted their business to overseas markets over the years. Buying Mills Group won't mean anything to us."

Vicky was not overly interested in business and had not paid much attention to the conversation, but she twitched when she heard the mention of Mills Group.

She barely survived Forever Night and completely forgot about Sebastian until they mentioned Mills Group.

Sebastian was the one who aided her to escape to Lovian, and he was the one who came to pick her up from the airport. However, on their way to her apartment, they ran into an accident, and that was precisely how she caught unwanted attention, which led to her kidnap.

As she tried to make sense of her train of thought, Tyler said emotionlessly, "Mills Group doesn't mean much to us here, but the Mills Group branch in Lovian is different." The others fell into silence, and one of the shareholders said, "Due to its economic system, Lovian has a great gap between the poor and the wealthy, and its market doesn't hold as much potential as other countries. Besides, we have no branch in Lovian, and it'd be challenging enough to get through to the Lovian market, not to mention buying out the Mill Group branch there."

The shareholder tried to be subtle but clearly looked down on Lovian and Mills Group. Another shareholder agreed, saying, "Hart Corporation is growing rapidly, and there are countless countries that want to work with us. There were more options that require less input and promise great revenue. There's no point in wasting our time and resources in Mills Group."

"Mills Group planted their roots deep in Lovian, and I heard that Sebastian Mills is close with the Lovian president. Lovian is a xenophobic country, and we might not be able to make any profit by just barging in."

Tyler listened to them calmly before saying, "Our network has been attacked some time ago, and we've found the culprit behind it." He then shot Harry a glance.

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Harry nodded and handed out the documents to all the shareholders.

"Mills Group have been wanting to work with Auran, and when they realized there isn't a chance they'll get the deal, they started scheming."

Tyler scanned the faces before him and paused when his gaze landed on Vicky. The others were instantly absorbed in the discussion as they read the documents in their hands.

"So Mills Group is the one attacking our network?"

"How dare they declare war against us?!"

"Ha! Are they so poor that they can't even hire a proper hacker? That hacker didn't even get past the first layer of our firewall."

"Had Mister not gone to Auran, Auran would've worked with Mills Group instead..."

"It's just competition, and they should've settled it with dignity instead of playing dirty tricks behind our backs... Mills Group is reaching its end."

"I've met Sebastian Mills a couple of times before. He looks like a gentleman on the outside, but who would've guessed that he's that ruthless deep down inside?"

Vicky narrowed her eyes.

If Hart Corporation's network was indeed breached, all confidential information might be leaked and Tyler would have to focus on handling that instead of going to Auran for the business deal.

However, the hacker failed to infiltrate Hart Cooperation's network, so the plan failed. Vicky had mentioned to Sebastian a long time ago that she wanted to divorce Tyler, and Sebastian was the one who told her to leave Zendonía so she could get the divorce in Lovian. He arranged the time she left and even told her to take advantage of Tyler's absence.

She had not thought much of it until this very moment, about how everything seemed to line up so perfectly.

If something happened to her in Lovian, Tyler would definitely return to help her, and it would be ideal if he learned about her disappearance before he had the chance to sign the contract.

Vicky felt as though there was a gigantic rock pressing against her chest.

The Mills Group's scheme completely enraged the shareholders, and they all agreed with Tyler's plan in the end.

After the meeting, everyone left, and Vicky walked out of the meeting room gloomily.

Tyler had bought her a new phone on the second day since she arrived home, but she had not received a single phone call or text message from Sebastian.

It did not fit his role as her childhood friend, and Vicky could not help but think if Sebastian was the one who sold her to Forever Night.

'If it was him, who...was that guy in a mask?!' She was completely absorbed in her thoughts that she did not notice the man standing in front of her.

She kept her head bowed and ran straight into the man's arms and heard his voice saying, "What are you thinking about?"

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Vicky looked up and looked away when she met his eyes."... I'm fine."

Tyler narrowed his eyes but did not pressure her into answering. "Let's get lunch.'

"Sure."

They had lunch in Tyler's office, and since Vicky could not bring herself to go outside, she tried her best to stay indoors.

In the afternoon, there were no other meetings, and Tyler stayed in his office to work.

He was occupied, and Harry and Adam would keep coming in and out with documents for him to sign or to report updates about the company.

Vicky's mind drifted for the entire afternoon and did not catch on when Tyler called out to her until he walked toward her.

"What's wrong? Is something bothering you?"

Her lashes fluttered, but she could not bring herself to look into his eyes.

If everything discussed during the meeting was true, it was likely that Sebastian was behind her kidnapping.

"Tyler, you still haven't told me how you got me out of Forever Night."

Tyler sat down next to her and leaned backward lazily. "I know the owner of Forever Night, and he was willing to do me a favor."

Vicky had learned some of the details from Jane, so she did not believe a word Tyler said. She looked up and stared into his eyes. "Did you...pay a big price to get me out?"

"It's not a problem if it can be resolved with money," he said with a low voice. "So long as you're safe, nothing else matters."

He did not deny paying a price, and no matter how hard Vicky tried to press on the issue, Tyler refused to give her an answer about what he sacrificed.

Vicky was both touched and overwhelmed by guilt. She felt like the biggest fool that had ever lived for believing an outsider over Tyler.

Tyler had already been affected.

If the Mills' business ran in Lovian, it would mean that the owner of Forever Night might be close to Sebastian. If that was true, Sebastian scammed Tyler into paying him with her as leverage.

Vicky summoned every ounce of her resolution and said, "Tyler, there's something that I haven't told you about."

He lowered his gaze at her. "What is it?"

"Sebastian... was the one who made arrangements for me to run to Lovian."

Tyler's expression darkened, but he did not seem surprised at all. "Yeah. I know."

She studied the composed look on his face in shock. "How did you know?"

"Sebastian is your childhood friend who cares about you. He's the only one who can help you, whom you trust."

She bowed her head in shame.

"Vicky," Tyler said. "Do you know that he once got you drunk to try and sleep with you?"

"The number you have dialed cannot be reached at the moment. Please try again later."

Sebastian set his phone down with a dark expression.

He had heard the voicemail message countless times at this point, but Vicky still had not picked up the phone.

Just then, he heard someone knocking on the door, and a beautiful female assistant walked in.

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The assistant frowned when she saw the untouched food by Sebastian's desk.

"Mister Mills, you didn't have lunch. At least have something for dinner."

Sebastian rubbed the bridge of his nose in exhaustion and said, "How can I eat when I haven't found Vicky?" He looked up at the assistant. "Still no news from Lovian?"

The assistant shook her head. "No."

He scowled. "What about the president? He hasn't heard anything either?"

"Mister Mills, you know what Lovian is like. Even Mister President finds his hands tied in certain places," the assistant said.

Sebastian felt increasingly frustrated.

He caught the news that Vicky went missing the same day she was kidnapped, and there were witnesses who claimed she was taken by two men.

It should not have been difficult for Sebastian to find two local thugs, but the two left Lovian on the same day to his bewilderment.

At this point, Vicky had been missing for over half a month.

He would call Vicky every single day, hoping for a miracle, but she still had not answered the call.

Baam!

Just then, someone barged into the office through the door without knocking.

"Mister Mills!" It was another one of Sebastian's assistants, and he exclaimed excitedly,

"We've found Miss Shaw!"

Meanwhile, inside Tyler's mansion, Nanny Paterson placed a plate of sliced fruit on the coffee table and left.

There were guests at home, so Vicky did not follow Tyler to the office.

Once Nanny Paterson left, Cece said, "Vicky, you scared the bejesus out of me! I thought... I thought something happened to you..."

Jennifer agreed and asked, "Vicky, what on earth happened?"

Cece and Jennifer had come to visit.

Sebastian reached out to them, who were also in Lovian, as soon as Vicky went missing. He knew that it was unlikely for Vicky to be with Cece and Jennifer but remained hopeful.

Ever since they learned about Vicky's disappearance, Cece and Jennifer had been worried and went around searching for Vicky, but there were just two of them, and it was hard for them to track anyone down.

Vicky had helped Jennifer in the past and Jennifer was forever grateful for it, so she called Anthony to ask for his help.

Both Cece and Jennifer knew what it meant to seek Anthony's help, but they could not bother themselves over the consequences when Vicky's life was on the line.

Anthony assisted with the investigation, and they soon learned that Vicky had returned to Zendonía.

Vicky looked at the two apologetically. "Cece, Jennifer, I'm sorry. I forgot to get in touch with you..."

Vicky had suffered mentally and was tormented by nightmares, i

Tyler had made an appointment with a psychologist, who was scheduled to come in the afternoon for counseling.

"We're glad that you're alright, Vicky. We thought..." Cece said hesitantly.

"It's okay. Speak your mind." Vicky smiled.

"We thought that Mister Hart hid you away on purpose," Cece whispered.

Vicky froze. "What makes you think that?"

"Mister Mills has a lot of influence in Lovian, and if it's just an ordinary case of kidnapping, he would've tracked you down a long time ago. He said that you went missing after you got to Lovian, so...there's a possibility that you were followed, and the kidnapper had been waiting for a chance to capture you all along." Jennifer paused to glance at Vicky, before continuing, "That's why we thought that Mister Hart found out about your plan..."

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Vicky scowled at the mention of Sebastian.

"Tyler didn't hide me away. I was kidnapped, and Tyler was the one who rescued me.'

In the past, Vicky might have had doubts about Tyler, but after all the things that had happened, she trusted Tyler unconditionally.

Vicky hesitated a moment and decided not to mention what she had experienced in Forever Night.

Jennifer could tell the change in Vicky's attitude and asked, "Vicky, you don't intend on traveling overseas now, do you?"

Vicky's blood ran cold at the mention of 'overseas' and said, "Yeah. I'm not leaving anything soon."

"Vicky, Missus Williams from Barama emailed me yesterday and said that she loves our dresses. She wants to order another one from us," Cece said.

"Missus Williams?"

"Vicky, you were a guest in the fashion week that took place in Barama a year ago. You met Missus Williams there and designed a dress for her," Cece explained.

If it happened a year ago, it was before Vicky lost her memories, and since she could not even bring herself to go outside, she could not possibly travel overseas.

"Cece, I need a break, so let's not take any orders from overseas."

“Well, why don’t I go instead, Vicky?” Cece suggested. “I can get Missus Williams’ measurements, and you can design the dress while I give her advice depending on her figure, demeanor, the accessories she plans on wearing, and the occasion.”

Private fashion designers needed to do more than just design clothes for their clients; it required far more than knowing the measurements and producing a piece of clothing following the client’s request.

The most brilliant designers would have to offer professional advice based on the client and would have to carry out the fitting session on their own to make sure that the clothing fitted perfectly.

“Missus Williams is a big client, and we only managed to open a studio because of how handsomely she paid us,” Cece added.

Vicky was traumatized by leaving the country, and she could not help but worry that she would cause trouble to the people around her if she tried.

“Forget it.” Vicky looked at Cece and said, “Director Lumber paid for the money for working for the production team, and we have more than sufficient funds at the moment... The two of you have just returned from Lovian yourselves, so just take some time to rest.”

Cece and Jennifer shot one another a confused look.

Vicky had always been dedicated to her work and was extremely hardworking, so she would never turn down an opportunity.

Missus William had hired their service in the past and could afford to pay a fortune that would last the studio for a year, so there was no reason for Vicky to refuse it.

However, since Vicky insisted so, Cece knew better than to argue.

After chatting for a while longer, Cece and Jennifer left.

That afternoon, the psychologist Tyler hired for Vicky came.

Vicky was haunted by nightmares and exhibited extreme fear of darkness and faint lights in the darkness, which came in the way of her normal functioning, and Vicky was tired of living in fear all the time.

After a few days of counseling, the psychologist advised that Vicky go outside more often and could slowly try to adjust herself by starting with places that were packed with people.

Vicky accepted the advice, and after working on it for a month, she was finally freed from her nightmares and fear of the darkness.

On the day of Jennifer’s birthday.

Cece and Jennifer had spent a lot of time going outside with Vicky, sensing that Vicky’s strange behavior had something to do with the week she went missing.

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However, since Vicky refused to say anything, Cece and Jennifer decided that it was better for them to not raise any questions.

With a gift to Jennifer in hand, Vicky arrived at the restaurant half an hour early, and Cece arrived 10 minutes after her.

Vicky was shocked to see that Cece was alone and asked, “Cece, why are you alone? Where’s Jennifer?”

Jennifer only knew Cece and Vicky in Stoneford City, and since Cece and Jennifer lived in the same apartment, they would often travel together.

Cece pursed her lips. "That jerk, Anthony, took Jennifer with him this morning." Vicky narrowed her eyes at the mention of Anthony. "What exactly is going on between... Jennifer and Anthony?"

"That jerk knows no limit to save his mistress!" hissed Cece. "That woman is a goody-two-shoes, and Jennifer suffered so much because of her! Still, it's like Anthony is completely blind to it, and he can't even tell that that woman is faking it..."

Vicky had seen Anthony before and commented, 'Anthony doesn't seem that foolish to me.'

"I can find it in my heart to forgive him if he's just stupid, but how can a businessman like him not spot the trick of an ordinary woman? I don't think that Lily Foster can be smarter than the competitors Anthony has to deal with every day!"

Lily Foster was the woman who saved Anthony's life and the goody-two-shoes Cece was referring to.

While they were talking, lightning struck across the sky, and it started raining outside shortly after.

Vicky looked outside the window. "It's raining..."

All the clouds had gathered, and though it was only six in the evening, it was already pitch dark outside.

After a month of therapy, Vicky started to recover and was no longer as frightened when she went outside at night. Still, she was somewhat affected by the sudden approach of darkness.

Ring!

Cece's phone suddenly started ringing, and she answered the call right away. "Jennifer, Vicky and I are here, so when are you and Anthony arriving? What?! That woman is in Stoneford City as well?!" Cece's expression darkened. "How could he leave you on the street when it's pouring outside? Where are you right now? I'm coming to get you!"

Cece hung up after a few words and explained to Vicky, "Vicky, Anthony said he needed to do something and just left Jennifer on the street. Hang tight. I'll go and pick her up."

Vicky stood. "I will come with you."

Cece knew that Vicky was afraid of the dark and quiet.

Anthony had left Jennifer near the outskirts of the city where there were not many people, and as it was dark because of the rain, she shook her head and said, "It's fine, Vicky. I'll go alone. Just wait for us here. I should be back in around forty minutes."

Before Vicky could respond, Cece ran out of the restaurant.

There were a few taxis waiting outside, so Cece caught a taxi right away.

"Vicky."

Just then, a familiar voice was heard from behind Vicky's back.

She turned around and saw an elegant-looking man staring at her. It was Sebastian.

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Vicky's expression darkened as she greeted him emotionlessly, "Mister Mills."

Sebastian paled at her cold, distant tone and walked over to grab her by the shoulder.

"Vicky, why haven't you answered any of my calls? What on earth happened?"

She shoved his hands aside. "Please keep your distance, Mister Mills."

"Do you have some kind of misunderstanding about me, Vicky? I know that it's my

carelessness that led to you being kidnapped, but-

“Mister Mills,” she interrupted him. “I’m grateful for all that you’ve done for me... My friends will be back soon. If you don’t have anything important to say, please get back to your life.”

Sebastian refused to leave and stood before her to stare into her eyes. “Vicky, did Tyler Hart say something to you?”

She lifted her gaze slowly and met his eyes. “Are the Harts and the Mills not competitors? Did you not use me to distract Tyler from the deal he was about to make in Auran?”

Sebastian clenched his fists. “I admit that I had selfish intentions when I agreed to help you, but I wasn’t using you on purpose.”

“Not on purpose? Did you use me by accident, then?”

“Vicky, if you hadn’t called me at that time, saying that you want to leave Tyler, I would’ve never involved you in my plan...” Sebastian tried to explain.

Before Vicky reached out to him, Sebastian never thought of using Vicky, but since she happened to want a way out at the same time, the outcome would have been the same even if he chose not to take advantage of her escape plan. However, he could not deny that that thought had crossed his mind.

Vicky had guessed it before and was not overly surprised or emotional at Sebastian’s words. She knew that nothing was free in the world, and since she asked for Sebastian’s help, there was a price to pay.

“Please go, Mister Mills,” she said.

“Vicky, I’ve been sending my men to look for you, and I’ve been calling you every single day, but you never once picked up...”

Vicky completely lost her trust in Sebastian and did not take his words seriously.

Seeing how she was ignoring him, he moved to stand before her. “Vicky, listen to me. I looked into how you got kidnapped in Lovian... Henry had an accident on the way, and considering how many people ‘happened’ to be there to witness it, it might not be an accident at all.” He stared at Vicky intently. “Vicky, there aren’t that many people who can operate in secret under the Lovian governments’ eyes.”

“So? What are you trying to say?” She remained expressionless.

“If Tyler learned about your plan ahead of time, he might be able to accomplish that.”

Vicky sneered. “So, you are telling me that Tyler did this?”

“He has the motive and the power.”

“And what’s his motive?”

Sebastian looked into her eyes. “Vicky, do you still want to divorce him?”

Vicky was amused. “Are you trying to tell me that this is all just a big trap Tyler set up so that I won’t divorce him?” “It worked, didn’t it? You trust him unconditionally now and...” He paused. “You no longer wish to divorce him.”

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Vicky’s expression darkened. “Sebastian Mills, you were the one who suggested that I go to Lovian and arranged everything for me, but you’re now blaming it all on Tyler? You said that he knew about the plan. If that’s the case...one word from him and I won’t even be able to leave Zendonía, so why waste all this effort? You were the only one who knew about the plan apart from me, so how did he find out? Who told him?”

Sebastian was rendered speechless.

He suspected Tyler to be the culprit behind everything that happened, but he had no proof. Tyler had been so careful in the execution of his plan that Sebastian knew that his words did not make much sense.

After a while, he muttered, "Vicky, I really didn't kidnap you."

Tired of the debate, Vicky glanced at the time. "If you aren't leaving, I will."

Vicky had decided to move to another restaurant and turned to walk toward the entrance.

"Vicky, let me explain..." Sebastian ran after her and explained frantically, "I really have nothing to do with the kidnap!"

Alas, she ignored him.

Seeing how she was about to leave, Sebastian reached out to grab her.

"Vicky, I don't have any proof now, but...I swear to God. Tyler Hart has something to do with this! Don't idolize him. He's a ruthless man..."

Vicky wanted to recoil from his hold, but Sebastian held onto her wrist, and she could not shake him off due to the difference in power.

"Sebastian Mills, let go!"

"Vicky, listen to me. I'm not lying to you..."

The door to the restaurant opened abruptly, and the cold breeze escaped inside with raindrops.

A towering man walked in elegantly with a black umbrella.

Sebastian was standing in front of Vicky and was not paying attention to what was behind his back.

Vicky, on the other hand, was annoyed and scowled as she did not want to face Sebastian. The thought of the man with the mask terrified her.

Sebastian gripped tightly onto her wrist, and she could not help but feel disgusted by the touch.

"I'm calling the police if you won't let go!"

"Vicky..." Sebastian was about to say something else when he was pulled away by force.

Sebastian was caught off-guard and fumbled backward against the chair next to him.

A voice colder than ice itself echoed in the air. "Who would've thought that the managing director of Mills Group would shamelessly harass a married woman? Do you enjoy being the lover so much?"

Vicky turned around and saw the cold expression on Tyler's face.

"Tyler...?" she muttered. "Why are you here?"

He turned his attention to her and smirked coldly. "Missus Hart, you told me that you'd be home late because you'll be celebrating a friend's birthday... Is this the friend you were referring to?"

Chapter 341

"No," Vicky explained. "Jennifer ran into some trouble, so she isn't here yet."

Tyler's voice deepened. "Is that so?"

"Yeah. I'm not lying to you. Cece went to pick her up, and she just left."

Tyler turned his attention from Vicky to Sebastian. "Well, what's going on with him, then?"

Vicky glanced at Sebastian and muttered, "I don't know why Mister Mills is here either." Noting Tyler's lack of response, Vicky stole a glimpse at him sheepishly. "Tyler..."

"I'm sorry." The tension in his voice eased, and so did his expression. "I shouldn't have taken this out on you."

"It's fine." She relaxed and did not blame Tyler for the way he reacted.

She once reached out to Sebastian, which ended with her being tricked by him, and in the end, she needed Tyler to clean up after the mess she made.

It was understandable that Tyler would resent Sebastian for it.

Tyler lowered his gaze to hide the ruthlessness hidden in his eyes. "Vicky, are you still going to dine here?"

"No... I was about to leave and go to another restaurant when you came."

Tyler pulled her closer and rubbed his lips against her ear seductively. "Alright."

Vicky observed his expression gingerly. "Are you here to...dine as well?"

"I was free and decided to come to keep you company," he said.

Their relationship had improved by miles in recent times, and they would call or text one another frequently.

When she was on a call with Tyler earlier that morning, Tyler had asked where they would be dining, and Vicky told him the name of the restaurant.

Tyler did not say much at the time, but to her bewilderment, Tyler came over at the exact time when she, Cece, and Jennifer agreed to meet.

Vicky proceeded to explain the entire situation of why Jennifer was late, and neither she nor Tyler spared another look at Sebastian.

Sebastian could barely contain the anger boiling within him when he watched how Tyler wrapped his arm around Vicky possessively.

Tyler seemed to have sensed his glare and turned to look at him. "Mister Mills, is there something else that you need?"

"Mister Hart, have you heard of a certain saying?"

Tyler lifted an eyebrow. "A saying?"

"If you did something bad, people will inevitably learn about it," Sebastian said coldly.

"I see," Tyler said casually.

Sebastian kept his eyes trained on him and gritted out, "Tyler Hart, I'll find proof that you've tricked Vicky soon."

Tyler simply ignored him and lowered his head to speak to Vicky. "Which restaurant would you like to go to? I'll get my assistant to make a reservation."

"Sure."

Sebastian's expression darkened as the two continued to talk as though he did not exist. He knew that Vicky would not believe him no matter what he said.

"Vicky, I will find proof," he said before turning to walk out of the restaurant.

It was pouring outside and Sebastian did not have an umbrella, so he was drenched within seconds.

Vicky simply glanced at him and looked away almost immediately without a care in her heart.

Half an hour later, Vicky received a call from Cece. "Vicky, I'm afraid we'll have to postpone the birthday celebration."

Vicky frowned. "What happened to Jennifer?"

Chapter 342

“Jennifer passed out in the rain, and I’ve just arrived at the hospital with her. She’s running a really high fever of 39 celcius...”

Since Jennifer had fallen sick, the celebration was postponed and Vicky hurried to the hospital as well.

Tyler went with her, much to Cece’s bewilderment.

She once bad-mouthed Tyler with Vicky in private before, but Tyler was simply too intimidating and Cece would cower whenever she saw him.

Whenever his eyes would land on her, she would feel like she was being strangled.

Cece could not understand how Vicky could spend so much time with a man like that.

In the meantime, Jennifer was lying in bed like a fragile porcelain doll, and Vicky frowned at the sight. “Cece, what’s going on? Why is Jennifer down with a fever?”

It was unlikely that Jennifer came down with a fever immediately after she went out in the rain, so the only possibility was that she was already ill before she headed outside.

Cece choked back her tears and said, “Jennifer hasn’t fully recovered from the cold she had before, and she was left in the rain today... I hate that Anthony guy! He tried to make a point by not answering her call so that she’d go to him to beg for his help... It was cold that day, and she caught a cold after standing in the wind for two whole hours.”

Vicky narrowed her eyes. “Was it because of...me?”

Cece froze before blurting out, “No, Vicky...”

Vicky instantly knew that Jennifer was only in this situation because of her, judging from Cece’s reaction.

“Vicky, it’s getting late. Why don’t you head back? I’ll stay with Jennifer,” Cece said.

After all the chaos, it was already past eight and since Vicky was afraid of the dark, she would often return home before eight.

Vicky nodded. “Sure. I’ll drop by to see Jennifer tomorrow morning.”

Jennifer’s fever did not go down for another three days, and Anthony had not once appeared in the hospital.

Because of Jennifer’s condition, Vicky started spending more time in the hospital.

Vicky and Cece would take turns looking after Jennifer; Vicky would take the days and Cece would come at night.

One day, Cece was running late as she had something to deal with. As Vicky walked out of the hospital, she received a call from Tyler.

“Where are you?”

His voice reminded her that she was supposed to dine in a restaurant with Tyler that night.

Jennifer had regained consciousness some time ago, and Vicky went to get the doctors to check on her. The procedures did not end until Cece arrived.

She held onto her phone and whispered, “I... I’m just getting out of the hospital. I’m sorry. Jennifer was in a rush to call for the doctors and forgot to inform you that Cece was running late...”

Tyler fell into silence.

“I’m sorr-”

Before she could apologize, he hung up.

Beep, beep, beep!

By the time Vicky arrived at the restaurant, she was two hours late, and she noticed that the entire restaurant had been cleared as she walked inside.

Piano music echoed inside the restaurant, and Vicky immediately spotted the man sitting by the window.

There was a piece of cake in front of him with a candle in the shape '4' on the cake. It was neither his nor her birthday, which meant that it was their fourth anniversary. Vicky's pupil contracted at the thought.

Chapter 343

Vicky came to a sudden halt.

She remembered their anniversary before Jennifer's birthday, but since Jennifer was admitted to the hospital and she had been busy taking care of Jennifer, Vicky completely forgot about it.

She walked over to Tyler and said apologetically, "Tyler, I'm sorry. I... I forgot that it's our anniversary today."

The man turned around to look at her. "You've lost your memories, so it's normal that you'd forget."

He remained expressionless and his tone remained flat, but Vicky could still tell that he was upset.

They both knew she did not forget about their anniversary because of her amnesia.

Vicky sat down across from Tyler and said, "Jennifer has been unconscious for the past few days, and she suddenly woke up just now. I was in such a hurry to get the doctor's help that I forgot about our date..."

Tyler did not respond to it and simply waved the waiter over expressionlessly. "Start serving."

As they waited for their food, Vicky tried to initiate a conversation, and Tyler would either hum in response or simply ignore her.

Sometime later, the waiter returned with the dishes.

The piano music was smooth and pleasant, and the decoration inside the restaurant was breathtakingly beautiful, but the atmosphere between Vicky and Tyler remained extremely awkward.

Tyler set his spoon down after taking a few bites. Affected by his horrible mood, she lost her appetite as well.

'It's bad enough that I forgot about the anniversary. I've arrived late...so I cant blame him for getting upset,' she thought to herself.

Just as she contemplated how she could cheer him up, flashes of colorful lights lit up the sky outside the window.

The fireworks blossomed in the night, and she marveled at them before turning to look at the man across from her.

Tyler was watching the fireworks as well, and his features looked dreamy under the lights.

The music changed following the start of the firework show and turned into 'The Moonlight Bay' that she once played.

Nikki, Sheila, and her all played the song before, and it was obvious that this song meant something different to Tyler.

'Who is he really thinking of?' she muttered inwardly and felt a sharp pain in her chest.

Tyler sensed her gaze on him and turned to meet her eyes. He narrowed his eyes slightly and asked, "What is it? You don't like this?"

She sobered. "No. I like it."

"The look on your face says differently."

There was no joy or excitement on Vicky's face at all.

She tried to explain, "Actually..."

Before she could finish her sentence, the waiter walked over with a tray that had two jewelry boxes on it. Inside the boxes were two rings that shimmered gloriously under the light.

Her breath caught in her throat as Tyler got up to pick up one of the rings.

Before she had the time to register what was happening, he had reached out for her hand and put the ring onto her ring finger.

The ring fitted perfectly and as Vicky studied it dazedly, her mind was brought back to the rings she once saw in Tyler's study.

There was a ring that evidently did not belong to her. Amid her confusion, she heard Tyler's voice. Chapter 343

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Chapter 344

"Put my ring on for me.'

Vicky lifted her gaze to look at Tyler, who stood tall before her, blocking all the lights and fireworks behind him. A shadow loomed over his features.

Vicky picked up the remaining ring and carefully put it onto his ring finger.

It fitted perfectly as well.

Once the two exchanged rings, the waiter smiled and said, "We hereby wish for many more years of joy and happiness for you, Mister Hart, Missus

With that, the waiter bowed respectfully and left.

Vicky stared at the rings on their hands and how their hands were joined. She felt as though they were at a wedding.

"This is my gift to you for our fourth anniversary.' Tyler looked at her intently. "Do you like it?"

She nodded. "I do."

"If you do, don't ever take it off."

She beamed. "Sure."

Throughout the four years they were married, they had always been struggling with their relationship, and Tyler never bothered to wear a wedding band.

They finally reached a point where neither of them wanted a divorce and both wished to work on the marriage, so it was normal for them to start wearing their wedding bands.

After the firework show, the two went home.

On their way back, Vicky kept looking at the ring on her hand and rubbed at it

unconsciously.

She was happy, but she could not take her mind off the rings in Tyler's study at the same time.

The rings they were wearing at the moment resembled the rings she found in the study, and the only difference was their sizes.

'Is this a coincidence, or is it...' she questioned inwardly.

Tyler was driving but noticed her odd reaction and narrowed his eyes darkly. 'What's wrong? Don't you like the rings?'

She looked up at Tyler.

There was no light inside the car and as the street lights flashed by, the light cast on his face would fade and reappear consistently.

"No," she whispered. "I like it, but..."

"Did you design the ring?"

Vicky fell into silence.

He shot her a glance. 'Did you want me to design it?'

"No. It's just that..." Vicky wanted to ask him about the rings in his study but decided against it.

If he could accept everything that she went through in Forever Night, she saw no reason why she could not embrace his past.

Vicky looked up and smiled at him. "I saw something like that in TV shows before and got curious."

"I'm not good at designing anything, so even if I do try, the ring will end up looking horrible," Tyler said.

The two soon returned home.

Tyler went for a shower while Vicky sat on the couch dazedly as she stared at her ring.

Sometime later, he returned and walked over to her.

His towering figure blocked the light and when she looked up, he bent down and grabbed her by the back of her head before devouring her lips.

Chapter 345

In the past month, Vicky and Tyler shared the same bed, but Tyler had not made any advance on her.

It was not that he no longer desired her, but Vicky had been severely traumatized since she returned from Forever Night.

She would either lose sleep or suffer from nightmares, and though she was making progress with therapy, she would still back away from Tyler's touch.

Tyler knew that she was struggling to overcome her demons and did not push her.

It was their fourth anniversary, and though she forgot about it, Tyler remembered and went to the lengths of planning a surprise for her.

She had arrived late and upset Tyler, so she felt that intimacy might be the way she could compensate him, especially since she was recovering with the help of her therapist.

Intimacy was inevitably the tie that kept a marriage together, so she did not back away and wrapped her arms around his neck.

Tyler deepened the kiss when suddenly, the ringing of a phone interrupted them.

Ring!

Vicky pushed Tyler away and said, "My phone..."

Tyler was displeased but did not insist on continuing.

Vicky answered the call. "Cece?"

"Vicky..." Cece's panicked voice came from the speaker. "Anthony is here, and he's trying to take Jennifer away by force. I can't stop him, and Jennifer doesn't want to leave with him..."

Vicky frowned. "Cece, try to stall him. I'll come over right now."

Vicky ended the call and stood to leave, only to recall what happened earlier when she noticed the dark gaze upon her.

"Anthony is trying to take Jennifer away against her will, and Cece can't stop him, so-

"And you can?" Tyler asked coldly.

"..." She realized that she could not, but Tyler was capable of doing so. She and asked, "Can you help Jennifer out and keep her from being taken by Anthony?"

He narrowed his eyes with an unreadable look on his face. "You haven't even known Jennifer for that long. Why do you care so much?"

She was stunned by this questioning but answered regardless, "Jennifer is Cece's friend, and Cece has helped me so many times before. Helping Jennifer is the same thing as helping Cece."

"That's all?"

Vicky thought about it and said, "I guess Jennifer and I just clicked. She is my employee now. Cece and I are the only ones she knows in Stoneford City, so I can't just leave her, both as a friend and as a boss."

"Are you not scared of going out during the night anymore?"

Vicky glanced at the darkness that loomed over the streets outside and hesitated but pushed past her fear right away. "I'll eventually have to overcome it." She turned to Tyler. "Don't you want me to overcome the trauma as well?"

Tyler simply stared at her in silence.

She walked over to kiss him, but he turned away from it.

She studied his expression and whispered, "Are you upset?"

"Aren't you just trying to fawn over me so that I'd help your friend?" he said expressionlessly.

She wanted to argue but decided against it.

Considering Anthony's status and power, she would not be able to stop him without Tyler's help.

The disdain in his eyes thickened when she did not deny it.

Vicky wanted to say something to cheer him up, but Cece called once again.

Chapter 346

"Vicky, Lily Foster is here as well," Cece hissed, "and she is fanning the fire here..."

Jennifer has just woken up, and Anthony brought that goody-two-shoes here to upset her!"

Not daring to delay any further, Vicky said, "Don't panic. I'm coming." She covered the speaker and said to Tyler, "I'm leaving."

Without waiting for his response, Vicky rushed out of the room.

As the door closed, the look in Tyler's eyes darkened.

By the time everything was settled on Jennifer's end, it was already after midnight.

Knowing that Vicky was afraid of the dark, Cece took a taxi to send Vicky home. The car stopped outside the mansion, and Vicky opened the door to step out when Cece asked, "Do you need me to walk you inside, Vicky?"

"It's fine." Vicky smiled. "I'm not that scared of the dark anymore."

"But..."

"I came alone, didn't I? Did I look scared to you just now?"

Cece bowed her head sheepishly. "I'm sorry for causing you trouble again, Vicky."

"Had I not gone missing, Jennifer wouldn't have gone to Anthony for help, and Anthony wouldn't start targeting her again," Vicky said. "Alright.

Jennifer is still waiting for you in the hospital. Go back.'

Cece looked up and said, "Vicky, Jennifer said to thank Mister Hart."

The look in Vicky's eyes softened at the mention of Tyler. "Sure. I'll go inside now."

Cece nodded and told the driver to drive away once she saw that Vicky was inside the mansion.

The bedroom was completely dark, and Tyler seemed to have gone to sleep.

Vicky went for a shower and slipped into bed.

She could not see his face, but she could see that he was facing her with his back in the darkness.

Though Tyler never agreed to help, he sent his men to the hospital in the end to stop Anthony's men.

Stoneford City was Tyler's territory and Anthony did not dare to take it too far, so Jennifer was safe for the moment.

Vicky stared at his back and quietly decided that she had to cheer Tyler up the next day. To her bewilderment, Tyler left for a business trip the next day and would not return for another two weeks.

Vicky was depressed when she learned about it.

Since Tyler was gone, she spent more of her time in the hospital.

One day, she walked into the hospital ward and saw Cece chatting with Jennifer as they studied a beautifully wrapped gift.

"What are you two talking about? You look so happy."

"It's a recent trend to buy blind boxes. I went and bought one. We're just trying to guess what's inside," Cece explained with a smile. "Vicky, why don't you give it a guess?"

"Is there a general criterion?" Vicky asked.

Cece took out a poster and said, "There are a lot of themes, like cartoons, fairy tales, ballroom, horror... Just a lot of them."

"What are you guessing?"

"I'm guessing a stuffed animal,' Cece said.

"I've bought blind boxes before, and they're mostly garage kits."

Vicky felt the weight of the box and said, "Maybe it's a crystal ball?"

Since the three had all taken their guesses, Cece said, "Let's open it up!"

Vicky was curious as well and found the tools to open the box.

The afternoon sunlight was soft and gentle, and the demon mask hidden inside the box shimmered in the most terrifying manner.

Chapter 347

Vicky let go of the box, and the mask inside fell onto the floor with a loud thud.

Her blood ran cold at the sight of the mask. Her lashes fluttered, and she started to feel lightheaded from the intense fear.

Her nightmare had returned.

“Vicky?”

Both Cece and Jennifer turned to look at her in shock.

Though the mask looked devilish, it was not special in any way. They could not understand why Vicky would react this way.

Vicky tried her best to control her emotions, but she could not help but shiver.

Jennifer sensed that something was

Cece immediately picked up the mask and placed it back into the box before sealing the box once again. “It’s...a pretty creepy mask. I guess this is one of the horror-themed boxes.”

“Yeah. I was scared for a moment there as well,” Jennifer agreed. 1

“Vicky, you stayed with Jennifer the whole night last night, with her tonight,” Cece said.

Ever since Tyler went on a business trip, Vicky started staying the nights with Jennifer in the hospital. With Tyler gone, she would be all alone at home, so she decided it would be best to stay with Jennifer instead.

She slowly started to overcome her trauma and fear of the darkness, but when she saw the mask, her mind was instantly taken back to the nightmare she went through in Forever Night.

Vicky could no longer maintain her composure and nodded, ‘Sure. I’ll go home and rest.’

“Vicky, let me walk you out,” Cece said.

“It’s fine. Stay here with Jennifer. I can go home on my own.”

“But...” Cece wanted to insist, but Jennifer shook her head at Cece, and Cece fell into silence.

Vicky was not in a state that allowed her to of the hospital dazedly.

It was noon and though the sun

She stood under the sun for a while and did not numb and her forehead covered with sweat.

Only the sun could make her feel safe.

Her phone vibrated at this moment, and she swiftly calmed herself.

She took it out to find a text message from an unknown number, and she instinctively opened the message.

[Have you gotten my gift?]

Vicky’s heart sank and clenched her fists.

‘It’s him! It really is him!’ Vicky exclaimed inwardly as she dialed the unknown number with trembling fingers.

Beep! Beep! Beep!

The phone was answered right away.

Chapter 348

A familiar, altered voice came from the speaker. “It’s been a while, Miss Shaw. Have you been well?”

Vicky tried her best to stay calm but failed to control the shivering of her voice. “What do you want?”

The man chuckled. "I've come to Stoneford City for a business trip, and since you live here as well, I decided that we should meet up for old times' sake."

Vicky's ruffled breathing could be heard through the phone as she questioned, "How did you get my number?"

"Is that supposed to be difficult?" the man drawled. "I should thank you for giving me all your personal details back then."

He was right. Vicky had given a lot of personal information about herself when she sought the masked man's help to escape Forever Night.

Since she was also Tyler's wife, it was extremely easy to track her down.

Vicky clenched her fists until her fingers belong to them. If you've looked into me, you should know that."

"Well, you aren't lying about that, but... You

At the time, she completely could about the situation.

"Sir, I thought that Tyler-

"You thought that Tyler Hart abandoned you, right?" the man interrupted her.

After a brief moment of silence, she said, "Yes."

"And had he said that he'd come

"Yes."

"You sure are honest."

"I would've never been able to escape Forever Night without your help," Vicky whispered. "You... You saved me, and I don't want to lie to you."

"Are you telling me to stay out of your new life?"

Vicky did not respond.

"I heard that your relationship with your husband has improved, huh?"

She jolted and lost her composure. "What on earth do you want?!"

"It's been so long since I saw you. I just want to meet you, Miss Shaw."

"You've helped me before and I'm grateful, but Tyler isn't someone you want to cross. If he learns about you, he'll come after you!" she gritted out.

"If he learns about me?" the man said. "So, he still doesn't know about me?"

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"Don't worry." The man chuckled. "I won't be here long. Three months, at most. I'll leave after that, and you can carry on with your life."

Sensing that she was on the verge of a mental breakdown, the man added, "Til be careful so that Tyler Hart doesn't find out. By the way... I've just sent you something interesting. Give me your answer after you watch it."

With that, the man hung up without hesitation.

An ominous feeling took over Vicky as she opened the unread message on her phone.

She jumped and dropped her phone moments later.

Chapter 349

The video on the screen was completely black, but the sounds had been magnified multiple times.

"If you want revenge, I can help!

"You know, I hate Tyler Hart, too. That's why I want to divorce him. If...you can help me get away, I-I can spy on him for you and get you whatever you want from him..."

"Do you hate him that much?"

“Yes, I hate him! He messes around with other women yet threatens me in all ways possible to prevent me from leaving. By the way...”

“I still have a few more videos on my phone. I can send them to you if you’d like to see them.”

All of Vicky’s exaggerated accusations of how ruthless Tyler was came into the ear, before her speech about how Tyler was incompetent in bed.

Her voice was laced with hatred, and the resentment on her face could be seen under the faint light.

Vicky’s blood froze.

The video was lengthy and captured the entire conversation between her and the masked man.

Before she could watch the entire video,

She picked up her phone and answered the call. “You recorded videos of me?!”

“I had to keep evidence, or I wouldn’t be able to explain myself if you tried to accuse me of something in front of Tyler Hart, would I?”

“You are an absolute trash of a man!”

“That’s not what you said before,” the man mocked.

N 11

“Say,” the man lowered his voice, “if I were to send all these videos to Tyler, would he think that you’re actually in love with him? Maybe he’d think that you’re just by his side to collect information on my behalf.”

“You lunatic! Psychopath! I won’t let you get what you want!”

The man was not offended at all and chuckled. “If I release all these to the internet, Tyler will be the laughing stock of the entire world and your name will be in the dirt as well.”

“You wouldn’t dare!” Vicky shouted.

“Do you want to try me?” the man warned dangerously.

She panted heavily and silenced herself from saying anything else.

The man kept a mask on the entire time, and even if he released the videos, he had nothing to fear because no one knew his true identity. She, on the other hand, would suffer greatly as he said. Even Tyler would be mocked by the world because of her.

She bit her lower lip until she drew blood. After some time, she said, “Just tell me what you want.”

“Tonight, at eight. Room 1331 in Cloud-Nine Hotel.”

Her breath caught in her throat.

Before hanging up, the man reminded her, “If you decided not to show up, I’m open to talking to Mister Hart instead.”

It was a blatant threat. Before Vicky could respond, the man ended the call.

Chapter 350

At eight that night, Vicky arrived before Room 1331 with a key card she received from the receptionist, but she simply could not summon the courage to step inside.

Just then, her phone vibrated, and she saw a text message on her phone.

[Are you waiting for me to call Tyler Hart before coming inside?]

Vicky’s heart sank, and she immediately pushed the door open.

Darkness loomed over the room, and there was only a dim light by the couch where she could see a man sitting.

The man's shadow twisted under the light, and the familiar sight took her memories back to Forever Night as all the details she tried to forget came rushing back to her. She froze in place, unable to step forward.

"Why are you just standing there?" the man asked. "Should I come over to bring you in?"

Vicky clenched her fists and walked inside reluctantly.

He studied her with his dark, brooding gaze under the mask and said, "You were in Forever Night. It looks like you've been having the best time."

"Sir," she said, "I'll always be grateful that you've helped me."

The man leaned against the couch and said, "And here I thought that you'd completely forgotten about it and wanted nothing to do with me."

Vicky could not read the man and continued with a soft voice, "Sir, meeting me like this won't do you any good. Tyler will come after you. Why would a man like you put yourself in danger over a woman?"

The man interrupted her and said, "But I want Tyler Hart's woman right now. H

"If it's something else, I'll try my best, Sir, but I can't agree to what you are asking."

"Why?" The man chuckled. "Saving yourself for Tyler?"

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"I'm not used to you looking so determined. Miss Shaw," the man mocked. "If you are that reluctant about this, I can give you another choice."

Vicky's eyes widened with hope. "What is it?"

The man lowered his voice and sounded extremely devilish. "Do you remember our conversation on the first night? You offered to stay by Tyler Hart's side to spy for me. If you're willing to steal the confidential information of his company for me, I won't touch you."

She froze, as neither of the choices the man offered was acceptable.

"You wanted me to give you another option, and I did as you wish," the man drawled. "Aren't I nice to you?"

Chapter 351

'He isn't giving me options. He's trying to corner me!' she growled mentally.

The man's mask shimmered under the light as he sat elegantly and observed Vicky like a predator gazing upon his dying prey.

"Have you decided, Miss Shaw? Are you going to spy on Tyler for me, or..." He lowered his voice and murmured, "Are you sleeping with me?"

She jolted and stuttered, "I... I can get the confidential information on his computer for you, but...that's just for three months."

The look in his eyes darkened. "Looks like your innocence is more important to you than your husband's career."

Vicky lowered her gaze.

"Since you've made your choice, I won't push you," the man said. "I heard that your husband is recently on a business trip, so...it should be easy for you to obtain the information." The man paused for a few moments to think and said, "Bring a copy of whatever is in his computer to me tomorrow at the same time."

Vicky stared at him. "It's just for three months...deal?"

The man crossed his legs elegantly. "Sure. I'm only staying for three months, anyway."

"Can... Can I leave now?"

"Of course," the man said.

Relieved, Vicky hurried toward the door.

"By the way," the man added, "there's something I need to remind you of."

Her heart sank, and she froze as she reached for the door.

She turned around to look at the man, whose body was completely absorbed into the darkness except for the mask on his face.

"I mentioned that I hate being lied to." The man's eyes

Vicky's palms were covered in sweat at this point, and she muttered, "I know..."

Since the man did not say anything else, she turned the doorknob and ran.

The sky had completely turned dark outside, and the neon lights on the streets lit up the city. Still, Vicky felt that demons were hiding in the corners, and she would fall if she made the wrong move.

Vicky struggled to fall asleep that night, and when she did, she was haunted by nightmares.

It had been some time since she had them.

After washing up, she headed downstairs for breakfast and did not have an appetite, so she only managed to take a few bites.

She lowered her gaze and caught the wedding ring on her ring finger, and a wave of bitterness overwhelmed her.

After sitting in the dining room for a while, she went back upstairs and instead of returning to the bedroom, she walked toward Tyler's study.

She stood blankly in front of the door for a few minutes before entering the password on the digital lock and walking in.

Everything inside the room was just as she remembered.

She was in a horrible state when she returned from Forever Night and could not stand to be alone at all in the first few days, so she would follow Tyler to the study while he worked.

She closed her eyes and walked over to Tyler's desk to turn on his laptop before inserting a USB.

She did not know much about business and did not know what was useful, so she clicked open a few files and copied some of the documents that did not seem important.

Chapter 352

As she focused on filtering the documents, the phone she placed on the desk started ringing.

Ring!

Vicky was startled by the sudden sound and took some time to calm her racing heart.

When she saw Tyler's name on the screen, she twitched and answered the call right before it automatically ended.

"Tyler...*" she whispered, her hand trembling as she held onto the phone.

"Nanny Paterson said you didn't eat much today.' His familiar voice came from the other end of the line. "Are you feeling unwell?"

"I'm fine. I just...didn't sleep well."

"Nightmares?"

"Yeah."

"Why are they starting again all of a sudden?" low growl. "I'll call Doctor Grimes to pay you a visit later."

Doctor Grimes was the therapist who had been counseling Vicky.

Vicky felt a lump in her throat at the concern in his voice.

"I guess... I'm having a hard time adjusting to you going on a business trip."

Tyler remained quiet for a few moments and said,

Vicky felt even more devastated as she stared at the laptop screen before her.

"I'm sorry... about what happened the day before yesterday. I forgot about our anniversary and neglected your feelings," she whispered.

"I'm not mad."

"I know... You wouldn't have sent your

"Yeah. If you're struggling with something on your end, call me anytime you want."

Tyler's voice was calming and reassuring, and Vicky slowly began to regain her

composure. "Alright."

They continued to chat for a few more minutes, and Vicky ended the call before collapsing onto the chair.

Guilt, despair, and heartache threatened

After taking two steps away, she remembered something and turned around to open the drawer in the desk hesitantly.

She went straight for the third drawer. As she remembered, there was supposed to be a pen, a wallet, a photo, a watch, and a pair of rings inside, but it had been emptied.

Not willing to give up, she opened the first and second drawer as well, but there was nothing other than documents related to work.

'Has he... moved all the stuff?' she thought to herself and walked out of the room thoughtfully.

At eight that night, Vicky arrived at the hotel to find the room as dark as it was before.

She handed the USB to the man and said, "I copied these from his computer."

The man accepted it and said, "Wait."

He did not seem to be worried that she might run away and headed into the bedroom.

10 minutes later, the man returned.

Chapter 353

The light in the living room flickered, and his shadow stretched and twisted in the most peculiar way.

Tension rose in the air, and Vicky instinctively clenched her fists.

"I've gone through the documents," the man said emotionlessly. "You gave me the list of employees and their respective departments... Are you trying to get me to work there?"

Vicky looked away. "I'm a designer, not a businesswoman. I don't know much about the company and... I thought that these were plans for Hart Corporation and copied them."

"What about finance reports, bidding reports, and contracts the company had signed before?"

"I didn't see any."

"Really?"

"Really." Vicky tried her best to sound as sincere as possible. "I placed the important documents in encrypted files. I'm not a hacker, and I can't possibly find them. These are all I found."

The man chuckled. "Vicky Shaw, do you take me for a fool?"

"Sir, I don't understand..."

"You are a designer and it is understandable that you don't know much about running a business, but what exactly do you think my profession is, Miss Shaw? Do you really

think that I'm unaware of what's inside his laptop? " The man's voice grew colder. "Miss Shaw, do you really think that I know nothing? Is that why you took the opportunity to play your tricks?"

The air around the man seemed to

"No?" The man narrowed his eyes dangerously.

"Ha!" He mocked and took out his phone.

She was stunned at first, but soon noticed what he was doing.

The lights were dim inside the room, so the screen of his phone stood out.

She could distinctly see that he was adding the videos to a message. He then dragged his long fingers across the screen and entered a certain number; a number that Vicky remembered by heart.

Her eyes widened, and she questioned, lips quivering, "W-What are you doing?!"

The man did not bother looking up. "Don't worry. Tyler Hart might not recognize that it's your voice."

He typed in the number and was about to send the message when Vicky snatched his phone out of his hand. "Are you crazy?!"

His eyes underneath the mask shimmered mercilessly. "Miss Shaw, I told you that I don't like being lied to."

She held onto his phone as tears welled in her eyes. "Next time... I won't lie to you next time."

He studied her with his cold, dark eyes.

Chapter 354

"Next time? Do I look like someone who gives second chances?"

"I promise that this won't happen again."

"Your promise is worth nothing to me," the masked man interrupted Vicky impatiently.

He had said something similar before.

When she was stuck in Forever Night, she sought his help, and he said that her gratitude meant nothing to him.

Realization dawned on Vicky, and she backed away.

Amused by Vicky's wariness, the man said, "You can leave whenever you want. Leave with my phone, if you want to. I have plenty of phones, and I can always replace them."

He did not go after her, but his words alone

Tears welled in her eyes as she muttered, "Sir, can you please... just give me one more chance?"

"No," he said cruelly.

Despair filled her heart as she thought to herself, "What should I do? What am I supposed to do?"

Sensing that she was about to break, he

Tears fell from her eyes. "What do you want me to do, then?"

He strode over and whispered into her ears seductively, "If you can't betray Tyler Hart... spend the night with me."

His breath was hot even when he was speaking through the stone-cold mask, and Vicky backed away with disgust.

The man chuckled at the look on her face. "Naturally, you can also choose to continue stealing confidential documents from him, but if you try anything again, you'll have to spend the night with me like tonight."

"I haven't agreed!" she shouted with widened eyes.

"Then leave," he said casually.

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"You won't leave, but you won't spend the night with me. Are you going to just stand there for the whole night?"

She paled and said, "If it makes you feel any better, I can...kneel here the whole night."

"Is that supposed to benefit me in any way?" the man mocked.

Vicky bowed her head in embarrassment.

The man checked the time and said, "You have one minute. Leave, or stay."

She was as pale as a ghost at this point and trembled pathetically.

Before long, the man's words pierced through the air like blades. "Time's up."

Chapter 355

The next morning, Vicky was woken up by the ringing of her phone. She fumbled for her phone and answered. "Hello..."

"Still sleeping?" A cold, melodious voice came from the phone.

"Tyler?" Vicky jolted awake and said, "Is...something wrong?"

After a brief moment of silence, he said, 'I texted you this morning and you didn't reply, so I was worried about you.'

'This morning?' She repeated inwardly and glanced at the time to find that it was already twelve at noon.

When Vicky did not respond, Tyler added, "I called Nanny Paterson, and she said you're not at home. Did you not go home last night?"

She started panting heavily at the memories of the night before.

"I... I stayed in the hospital with Jennifer last night, so I didn't go home."

Tyler knew that Vicky had gone to spend nights with Jennifer in the hospital in his absence and did not suspect a word she said.

"You've been up all night"

Vicky tried her best to comb through her thoughts and muttered, "Yeah..."

"Should I hire a private nurse for you?"

Vicky's heart sank as she blurted out, "It's fine!" Realizing that she sounded hysterical, she added, "Jennifer is recovering. Cece and I are enough..."

Bringing a stranger in might make Jennifer uncomfortable."

Tyler did not insist. "Call me if you need anything."

"Sure."

Just as Tyler was about to

"In about two weeks."

"I see..."

"What's wrong?"

"Nothing." Tears welled in her eyes, but she kept her tone cheerful. "Tell me when you're coming home. I want to pick you up from the airport."

"Sure."

The call ended, and Vicky curled up

She had meant to tell Tyler the truth, but she did not know where to start.

She had lost consciousness from the stress the night before.

Vicky pulled at her hair in agony and though the pain helped to sober her up, she still could not find a solution for her current crisis.

The masked man was far too sharp
She went to wash up and headed to the hospital to check on Jennifer.
Both Cece and Jennifer noticed how upset she was but dared not ask Vicky about it.
Vicky stayed for a while, but the two soon told her to rest at home.
Since she was indeed feeling exhausted, she did not insist on staying.
As soon as she returned home, her phone rang, and she came close to throwing her phone across the room when she saw the display on the screen.
It was from the masked man.
Vicky did not answer, nor did she reject the call until the call was automatically cut.
A few minutes later, her phone rang again and she glared at the numbers dancing on her screen.
For a moment, she desperately wished that she could stomp her phone into pieces, but suppressed her urge to do so.
The call was automatically dropped once again, and an unread message popped onto the screen.

There was no text and only a video. Without playing it, she knew what it was.

Chapter 356

Vicky closed her eyes and dialed back after a few minutes.

Beep, beep, beep...

The call was answered shortly after, but the man did not say a word, so Vicky spoke first, "I was occupied just now and didn't hear my phone ringing."

A voice altered by a voice changer came through the line. "Did you not hear it, or did not simply wish that you didn't hear it?"

"I didn't hear it."

The man did not argue on the matter and asked, "Have you decided how you're going to accomplish your mission tonight, Miss Shaw?"

"Do I have to meet you tonight as well?" She panted heavily. "Are... Are you asking me to meet with you every single night?"

"That's right."

"Tyler isn't in Stoneford City

"How is that my problem?" interjected the man curtly.

Vicky froze.

'TH be waiting for you in the same

At eight that night, Vicky remained sitting in the study.

She had not been moving for hours as she stared at the laptop before her.

She did not turn on the light in

'Let it be,' she thought, 'I don't care even if he hands the videos to Tyler or releases them online.'

Fear and guilt tormented her every single moment, and she knew that she would soon be driven mad.

She could never betray Tyler.

Vicky continued to sit dazedly for another half an hour when her phone started to ring.

She glanced at her phone. Instead of ignoring it, she answered the call expressionlessly.

"Vicky Shaw, you're late," the man said in displeasure.

"Yeah," she said coldly.

The man was sharp enough to spot the difference

"At home.'

"Are you not coming?"

Determination filled her eyes. "Yes."

"Are you not afraid of me sending Tyler the videos or releasing them to the public?"

"Go ahead," she said apathetically. "If I'm going to be miserable either way, I might as well choose a quick death over this torment.'

The man fell into silence, but Vicky did not care. "If that's all, I'm hanging up now."

"Vicky," the man called out. "Death isn't what's scary. You shouldn't be scared of wanting to die, but not being able to."

"Whatever you say."

The man chuckled darkly. "Vicky Shaw, you'll regret this."

Vicky did not waste any time and hung up right away.

The thick layer of curtain blocked the moonlight outside the windows, and Vicky found herself in the depth of nightmares.

Chapter 357

At first, Vicky thought that she was dreaming of Tyler, but it all felt too real to be a dream.

She opened her eyes abruptly and sobered when she saw the dark figure before her. Realization dawned on her that it was not a dream, and she instantly recognized the man in her room.

It was the masked man.

They could not see much of one another in the dark, but their eyes reflected the light and shimmered.

"Why... Why are you here?" Vicky gaped at the figure.

For a moment, she wondered if she was still asleep.

After a few moments of silence, the altered voice echoed inside the room." You've extended an invitation to me, Miss Shaw. I would be rude if I don't come over here.'

"When have I ever invited you here?!"

"You didn't show up at the hotel. Isn't that your way of inviting me to your house?"

Vicky shivered in rage and said, 'You're imagining it!'

"So be it,' he said casually.

Vicky was so shocked by the sight of the man that she forgot where she was for a moment. Realization dawned on her that he had broken into her house.

"Password is needed at the door. How did you get in?"

Apart from Vicky and Tyler, Nanny Paterson was the only one who knew that password, and she was an experienced nanny who would never let it slip to anyone else.

'How did he find out about the password? where my bedroom is?' she thought to herself.

He spotted the doubt on her face and said, 'Passwords are the easiest to break, and I didn't even need a locksmith or a hacker... I just needed to send my men to keep an eye on you and snap a photo of you when you key in the password.'

Her pupils contracted at his words. "You... You've been watching me?"

He chuckled with amusement. "Of course. How else will I find where you live?"

His tone was mocking and taunting, and Vicky's heart sank at his words. The man showed her the phone he was holding in his hand and chuckled." When you passed out last night, I took some photos of us. Would you like to see them?"

"Photos? What photos?"

He ignored her question and mumbled to himself, 'Nothing happened between us last night, but I'm not sure if Tyler will believe that once he sees the photos. He might even think that we're on the same side.'

"What on earth do you want from me?!"

"I gave you a choice, and you were the one who's been playing tricks with me. You can't blame me for not showing you mercy." He lowered his head and met her eyes. 'I came here tonight to teach you a lesson. Remember to show up in time tomorrow, or else... I'll be left with no option but to come looking for you.'

With that, the man vanished into the darkness.

The next morning, sunlight shone onto Vicky's cheeks, and her lashes fluttered as she slowly woke from her sleep.

Chapter 358

'Was it all just a dream?' she thought. 'That's right. It must be.'

She sat up and was about to go to the bathroom when she noticed something in the corner of her eye.

She froze at the sight of a demon mask next to her bed and felt her blood run cold.

Just then, her phone on the nightstand vibrated, and she unlocked it to find an unread message.

[Are you coming to me tonight, or should I come to you?]

All strength was instantly drained from her, and she started shivering.

Since she had not replied to the message, the phone started ringing. She felt numb as she stared at the number on the screen.

The call was automatically dropped

A few minutes later, the screen lit

She remained frozen in place and

She did not know how long had passed, but the phone eventually stopped ringing.

Knock, knock!

Just then, someone knocked on the door, and she Paterson's voice from outside the door. "Missus Hart, are you awake?"

Vicky snapped out of her dazed

"Mister Hart just called you,

After a few moments of silence,

Relieved, Nanny Paterson said, "Remember to call Mister Hart back, then.

He's worried sick about you."

"Sure..."

Nanny Paterson left afterward, and Vicky sat on the bed for a while longer before picking her phone up from the floor with a blank look in her eyes.

There were a lot of missed calls; three from the masked man and three from Tyler.

Vicky stared at her phone bitterly and ignored the unknown number to call Tyler.

The call was answered right away. "Vicky."

Tears scrolled down her face at the sound of Tyler's familiar voice.

"Yeah," she murmured. "I'm sorry. I've just woken up, so I didn't hear my phone ringing."

After a brief moment of silence, Tyler asked, "What's wrong with your voice? Have you...been crying?"

Chapter 359

"No." Vicky sniffled and added, "I've probably caught a cold." "Take care of yourself." Another tear dropped at Tyler's words. "Yeah. You too." Worried that she might not be able to contain her emotions, she said, "I'm about to go downstairs to eat, so let's end the call here..."

Before she could hang up, Tyler called out to her, "Vicky."

"Yes? What is it?"

"Are you really alright?"

"Of course," she said in the most cheerful manner she could manage. "I'm just tormented by a nightmare and haven't been able to sleep... Don't worry about me. I'll get better soon."

"Okay."

After breakfast, Vicky collected herself and went to visit Jennifer in the hospital. She felt dazed and did not know what she was thinking or what she should do. Everything was spinning out of control, and she had not expected the masked man to be mad enough to break into her house.

Even if Tyler had been understanding, he would never tolerate her if he was told that she had been with someone else, and she would struggle to accept it as well if she was in his shoes.

Too caught up in her thoughts, Vicky accidentally bumped into a passerby.

"I'm sorry..." Vicky apologized.

"Vicky," a melodious, soothing voice called out to her. "Are you ill?"

She looked up and saw a devilishly handsome face, his almond-shaped eyes locking onto hers.

"Harvey Sparks..."

Ever since Harvey's true identity was

He studied the pale look on her face and frowned. "Is Tyler hurting you again?"

She shook her head. "No."

"You look horrible."

"I haven't been sleeping well."

"Why are you at the hospital, Vicky? Are you feeling ill?"

Harvey could tell that Vicky had lost a lot of weight.

"No," she said emotionlessly. "Just visiting a friend here."

"Vicky..."

Vicky did not want to continue the conversation and thus said, "I should get going."

Before he had the chance to respond, Vicky walked around him and left.

Jennifer was young and healthy, so she could take care of herself.

Moreover, the doctors informed them that she could be discharged after a week.

Vicky was in such bad shape that she could easily be mistaken as the one who was sick. She managed to stay for a while to chat with Jennifer before leaving.

She had to find a way to survive the night.

The thought that she would be stuck in the same nightmare for the following three months, she felt helpless and devastated.

Vicky did not know what else she was supposed to do.

Chapter 360

Vicky walked out of the hospital, but she wandered on the street instead of going home. Vicky used to feel secure at home, but it recently became suffocating to stay home as well.

Honk!

Hearing the honk of a car, she looked up to find a car racing toward her. She had been in her head the entire time and could not react in time, so it was too late to dodge.

Screech!

The car came to a sudden halt, and the people around gasped. The car was at too high a speed to stop immediately.

Just when everyone thought that Vicky was about to be sent flying, someone pulled her backward abruptly, and the car raced by.

"Thank you." Vicky turned to look at the person who helped her.

Harvey gazed down at her. "Vicky, what happened?"

He had never seen her in such a terrible state before.

"I'm fine," she said. "I just haven't been sleeping well."

Harvey had known Vicky for long enough to spot her lie and said, "Vicky, you don't look like you're just suffering from the lack of sleep."

She had not told Tyler what happened, so she was not going to tell Harvey. Thus, she changed the subject. "Why are you here?"

Harvey shot her a knowing look and said, "You went in there to see your friend and you eventually have to come out, so I waited for you at the entrance."

Vicky was too absorbed in her thoughts to notice him, and since he did not know what happened to her, he decided to follow her and ran into the sight of her almost getting hit by a car.

Vicky did not want to be associated with Harvey, but she could not possibly give him the cold shoulder when he saved her life. "Mister Sparks, do you need something?"

"Vicky, I want to talk to you."

"We've said everything we needed

"I won't use you against Tyler, Vicky. You don't have to avoid me like this."

Vicky did not respond.

"Ten minutes. Just give me ten minutes, okay?" Harvey looked at her. "You wouldn't want me to come to the hospital looking for you every day, would you?"

Vicky was already at her wit's end with the masked man and did not have the strength to deal with Harvey, so she nodded.

Five minutes later, the two sat down in a cafe by the road.

The bittersweet scent of coffee filled the air as the two sat across each other wordlessly.

Vicky was the first to break the silence. "Proceed, Mister Sparks."

He picked up his cup of coffee and took a sip. The bitterness filled his mouth, and he drawled, "You are aware of the fight between me and Tyler back then, right?"

She nodded.

"I came really close to buying Hart Corporation out, but Tyler's parents died on their way to sign it, and the buyout was never confirmed. Before stepping foot into Stoneford City, I ran a detailed analysis of the power balance in Zendonía and though the Harts were pretty well-off, they were considered inferior to the Sparks and even the Shaws. I

extended the intention of joining forces with the Shaws, and Stoneford City was supposed to be mine.”

Vicky did not know why he was telling her this and muttered, ‘Are you saying that you wouldn’t have failed unless Tyler played dirty and plotted against you?’

“Tyler resented me, and it’s not strange to assume that he’d plot against me, but...”

He stared into her eyes seriously as the casual look on his face vanished.” He dared to tell you that I gave you to another man for some woman...” He narrowed his eyes coldly. “When that ‘other man’ was him!”

Chapter 361

Vicky, not knowing what happened in the past due to her amnesia, felt a strange feeling overtake her when she heard Harvey’s words.

“You’re saying that...you gave me to someone else and made me spend the night with that person?”

Harvey lowered his voice. “Vicky, what happened back then isn’t as simple as you think. You’ve forgotten everything, so whatever I say will sound like excuses.” He looked at her bitterly and added, “Vicky, are you still in contact with that person?”

“Who?” She shot him a confused look.

“The person who’s been helping you all this while.”

“Helping me?” She became more confused. “What are you talking about?”

Harvey studied her expression, and his expression darkened when he realized she was not trying to deceive him. “Looks like he hasn’t reached out to you since you lost your memories.”

Losing patience, Vicky demanded, “Harvey, what are you trying to say?”

He flashed her a smirk. “Vicky, have you considered how you, the lady of the fallen Shaw family, manage to become Missus Hart?”

‘That’s right. My family has fallen from power, and I somehow managed to steal Tyler from Sheila even when I have no leverage whatsoever,’ she thought to herself. ‘I’ve never been able to figure that out.’

“Sheila told me that I fooled Tyler by telling him that I was pregnant, and that’s why he married me...” Vicky whispered.

He stared at her with his almond-shaped eyes and asked, “And so? Who do you think Tyler is?”

Vicky froze. “What do you mean?”

“Even if you said that you were pregnant, you need to fake a medical report about it, right? Do you really think that you were in any condition to fool Tyler back then?”

“Are you saying that...someone helped me then?”

The look in his eyes darkened. “If that wasn’t the case, how could you have managed to stay with Tyler for so many years?”

Vicky was tormented by the masked man and felt even more helpless when she learned from Harvey that someone, whoever they were, had been helping her.

He studied her face and continued, “You were in a lot of trouble when we were together, and at first, I thought your family resolved them for you. I only found out later on that this mysterious figure had been cleaning up your mess, and you kept in touch with him throughout the years. I looked into it but found nothing.

“You didn’t know who that person was, and you never met him before either. I guess he helped you on far too many occasions that you trusted him blindly. You even trusted

him more than me when I was your fiance. It was your trust toward him that caused us to fight over Gloria.”

His expression darkened. “There was never a choice between you and Gloria and things shouldn’t have gotten that bad, but it was like you were brainwashed or something. A single choice could have a butterfly effect. You didn’t have much trust in me to begin with, and after that fight, you lost what little trust you had for me. The Sparks and the Shaws declined after that. I was sent to prison and the Shaws moved overseas, leaving you behind in Stoneford City. I don’t know what that person told you, but shortly after I left, you became Missus Hart.” 1

Vicky listened to him quietly as she observed his expression before concluding that he did not seem to be lying.

“Does Tyler...know about this person?’ Vicky asked.

Harvey smirked bitterly. “Why would he agree to marry you...or stay married to you for this long if he didn’t know anything about it?”

Chapter 362

Vicky frowned. “This is Stoneford City. As powerful as this mysterious person is, he can’t possibly threaten Tyler, not to mention make him marry me.”

Harvey looked at her darkly. “What if he had leverage against Tyler?”

She quieted down for a moment before saying, “Ever since I lost my memories, I haven’t been in touch with this person you’re talking about nor have I received any call or message from him...” Another thought occurred to her. “According to what you are saying, this person has something on Tyler, right? Why would Tyler try to divorce me on my birthday, then?”

His eyes widened slightly. “He wanted to divorce you on your birthday?”

Vicky nodded.

He was instantly absorbed in his thoughts and fell silent for a good few seconds.

As their coffee turned cold, tension rose between them.

“Vicky.” Sometime later, he met her eyes once again. “There are things that I’ve said to you before you lost your memories, and you didn’t believe me. You even thought that I was trying to turn you against him.”

“What did you say?”

“Do you really believe that people would help you without asking for anything in return?”

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Vicky fell into silence. She no longer believed in that since she lost her memories.

He lowered his voice in response to her silence, saying, “If nothing out of the ordinary happened, I suppose that the person who helped you out before...either fulfilled his purpose or has been watching you silently. When he realized that you serve no purpose for him after losing your memories, he abandoned you. Vicky, Tyler is a man with countless secrets. If you refuse to leave him, then...you’ll need to be careful. Up until this very moment, I can’t be certain if he was forced to marry you, or if he did so on purpose.”

The look in her eyes shifted. “On purpose? What is that supposed to mean?”

“Is there a crueller way to retaliate on a man than to steal his fiance?”

Vicky jolted and spilled the coffee in her hand,

Harvey immediately got up to grab her wrist and checked

She recoiled from the touch. “I’m fine.”

He ignored her and proceeded to drag her out of the cafe. "Let's go to the hospital."
"No. I'm fine."

"We're close to the hospital. It won't take too long."

He was strong and she could not shake him off, but her refusal to cooperate made it challenging for him.

He frowned and said, "Vicky, keep moving and I'm going to carry you outside."

Harvey seemed like he did not care about anything most of the time but could have a majestic air about him when he was serious about certain things.

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He smiled when she stopped struggling. "That's what I'm talking about."