

Loving You In Secret by Debbie Meza Online Free - Chapter 541 – 550

Chapter 541

When Vicky woke up the next day, Tyler was nowhere to be found.

She felt dizzy and ill when she got out of bed and realized that she might have caught a cold from standing in the room for two hours. Nonetheless, Vicky found some medicine at home and took them before going to work.

Once all the discussion about Gloria's dresses had been finalized, she would need to start drawing designs and bring them to Gloria to see if any amendments were required. She proceeded to the studio despite feeling ill and assigned the designing of three of the dresses to Cece.

Since Gloria had asked for several dresses and there was an imminent deadline, Vicky could not complete everything alone.

After working for Vicky for years, Cece had already become a skilled designer herself.

"Ugh!" Vicky coughed as she drew the draft for the designs.

"Vicky, are you okay?" Jennifer walked over worriedly. "You look so pale. Are you falling sick?"

"Just a little cold, but I'm fine. I've already taken some medicine."

Jennifer placed her hand on Vicky's forehead and jolted in shock. "Vicky, you're burning up!" She immediately called out to Cece. "Cece, Vicky is having a fever. We need to go to the hospital right away!"

Cece hurried over and after testing Vicky's temperature, she agreed. "Yeah. Well go to the hospital right now!"

They two ignored Vicky's protest and rushed her to the hospital.

Cece was responsible for queueing in line and making payment, while Jennifer remained by Vicky's side.

Vicky, meanwhile, had caught a cold and did not rest properly the night before, so she was barely standing.

10 minutes later, Cece came over with the doctor's letter. "Alright, we can take her to get an IV injection now."

Vicky turned to leave, but she saw stars before her and came close to falling.

Jennifer immediately tried to catch her, but someone did so before her.

Vicky steadied herself and looked up at the person who caught her. "Thank you."

The man who caught her was tall and wore a pair of sunglasses that covered most parts of his face, but one could still tell that it was a handsome man.

"It's alright," the man, his voice sounding husky.

Vicky felt lightheaded and did not have the energy to thank the man, so she simply nodded at him and left.

Cece and Jennifer, too, did not pay much attention to the man and simply supported Vicky on both sides.

Neither of them was aware that the man stood still and stared at Vicky as she left.

In the following days, Tyler was rarely home and only came home to sleep with her, so he did not notice that she was sick.

One day, Vicky met Gloria in a cafe with the initial draft in hand.

Gloria had other matters to attend to later, so she only had an hour. As soon as she arrived, Vicky took out the design draft. "These are the dresses we design abiding by your request. Why don't you see if there's something you would like to change?"

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Gloria glanced through the drafts and was in awe, not expecting Vicky's designs to be so refreshing and unique.

She only hired Vicky's service because she was recommended by a friend; she never imagined that Vicky was excelling as a fashion designer.

She suggested a few points for improvement, but not much was to be changed. The discussion ended an hour later.

As they walked out of the cafe, Gloria said, "I have something scheduled after this, so I'll get going now."

"Sure." Vicky nodded.

The two were about to go their separate ways when a black car with no license plate stopped before them.

Before they had the time to react, a few men darted out of the car and covered their noses with white handkerchiefs.

Without any chance to resist, they instantly lost consciousness.

The sea breeze blew past Vicky's body.

She felt cold and since she was still recovering from her cold, she started coughing.

"Ugh! Ack!" She coughed, and someone immediately placed a warm jacket on her shoulders.

Vicky opened her eyes.

The sound of sea waves echoed, and the scent of the ocean filled the air.

"Are you awake, Vicky?" a man's voice rang in her ears, and it sounded husky and familiar.

Vicky looked up to find a man with brooding, handsome features. The diamond piercing on his ear glittered under the moonlight and gave him an unruly, untameable presence. The man looked familiar, but Vicky could not recall why. "Sir, who are you?" She scanned him up and down. "W-Were you the one who stopped me from falling in the hospital that day?"

"Vicky, do you really not remember me?"

Vicky stared at him and shook her head.

"I'm Alex Torres."

Her breath caught in her throat as she recalled the man she saw in her dream and what Sebastian said. "You are...Alex?"

He beamed at her and said, "That's right. I'm Alex. I'm back, Vicky."

Vicky glanced around her. "Where am I?"

"We're on my ship."

Vicky was leaning on a couch inside the ship, and the sea breeze escaped inside through the window.

"Ugh!" Vicky coughed again, and Alex immediately got up to close the window.

"You looked ill since the last time I saw you. Have you not recovered?"

"It's fine. I just caught a cold. I'm recovering now." Vicky looked at him. "Why did you...kidnap me?"

A frustrated look appeared on his face. "I ordered my men to kidnap Gloria, but they saw you with her and thought you were her friend, so they brought you here as well. Anyway..."

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Alex smiled and said, "It's good that you're here, though. Seeing how things unfold with your eyes will definitely feel way better than seeing it on videos."

Contrary to Tyler's quiet restrained character, Harvey's playfulness, and Sebastian's gentleness, Alex seemed more straightforward.

After seeing him in her dream before, Vicky did not see him as a stranger.

"Better?" She frowned. "What are you going to do?"

He smirked coldly as he looked at Vicky. "Vicky, I'm going to make Gloria and Tyler pay for the pain they've caused you. I'll let Tyler know that I'm not the same man as I was four years ago."

"Are you...plotting revenge against him?"

"That comes second. My top priority is to make things right for you."

She recalled the time when Alex had his legs broken and twitched. "Alex, calm down," she said. "Tyler isn't as easily fooled as you think he is. You-"

"I know that I can't hold a candle to his wit and slyness, but..." he interrupted, sneering.

"Everyone has a weakness, and Tyler is no exception. He used me to threaten you back then, so I want him to have a taste of what it's like to be threatened by someone he cares about!"

Compared to four years ago, Tyler's power in Stoneford had solidified, so it was impossible to harm Tyler in the city.

Meanwhile, Vicky used to be ignorant in the past, but after witnessing what Tyler was capable of, she could not allow Alex to take the risk.

"Alex, listen to me." Vicky deadpanned. "You need to let Gloria go right now, and I'll explain to her that this is just a prank; she probably won't say anything to Tyler. If Tyler finds out that she's missing, everything will be too late."

The sky had turned dark outside the ship.

Both Gloria and Tyler were busy with work most of the time and could not keep in contact all the time, so there was time to send Gloria back without Tyler noticing something had gone wrong. Considering Gloria's character, she would not tell Tyler about it.

Just as she contemplated how to explain the event to Gloria, Alex said, "I've already informed Tyler that she's here."

"You... You told him already?"

Alex nodded. "He should be here soon." Spotting the anxious look on Vicky's face, he said, "Don't worry, Vicky. I told him that you've been kidnapped as well. I know that you want to get away from him, so I'll make him choose between you and Gloria. Once he chooses Gloria, I'll make him sign the divorce paper and you'll be completely free."

Before arriving at Stoneford City, Alex had contacted

Sebastian. When he found out that Vicky had lost her memories and sought Sebastian's help in leaving Tyler, he could not wait any longer to leave.

He swore that he would take Vicky away and stop Tyler from toying with them.

Noticing Vicky's hesitance, Alex said, "Vicky, I know that you don't remember about me, but surely you've heard about me from Sebastian before, yes? The three of us grew up together. I'm a straightforward man, so just speak your mind. N

Sebastian had once told Vicky that Alex was a hot-tempered and reckless man, and after meeting Alex in person, she could tell that he did not have the habit of considering the consequences of his actions.

It would make Alex a great friend because he would never lie or play tricks. However, if he was facing someone as sly as Tyler, it would be suicidal.

She lowered her voice and asked, "Alex, how... How are your legs?"

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It did not seem to be an appropriate question for Vicky to ask as Tyler broke Alex's legs because of her.

Asking about it seemed like rubbing salt in Alex's wound, but not asking about it would make her seem heartless...and she truly did want to know if he had recovered.

Alex smiled casually. "With modern technology, I've recovered a lot of time ago."

In truth, he had just recently recovered because Tyler had beaten his legs with such brute force that he came close to being bound to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

His family had traveled all around the world in search of skilled doctors and finally managed to cure him some time ago. He would have never waited so long before coming back to rescue Vicky.

Vicky stared at him. "Really?"

"Of course. When have I ever lied to you?"

She relaxed. "Where is Gloria? I want to see her."

Since Tyler had already been informed, Vicky realized that she would need to think of something else.

"Come on, then. I'll take you to her," said Alex.

He led her out of the room and arrived at another room where the lights were dimmed.

Gloria was tied to a chair with tape over her lips. Her hair was ruffled and both her cheeks were swollen with faint palm prints on them.

Gloria, who used to be elegant, seemed extremely discomfited.

She widened her eyes in disbelief and started to move as she made muffled screams when she saw Vicky walking into the room with Alex.

"And who are you glaring at, Gloria Shaw? I'll gouge those eyes out!" Alex said sharply.

Gloria ignored him and continued to glare at Vicky.

After a few moments of silence, Vicky whispered, "Let's at least remove the tape on her mouth."

Alex had always been obedient to Vicky and glanced at his subordinate. "Take the tape off."

Once the tape was removed, Gloria could finally talk. "You did this, Vicky?!" She stared at Vicky. "You resent me for keeping you out of the house and making you sick that day, huh? This is how you get back at me, is that it?"

Alex's expression darkened. "So you caused Vicky to come down with a fever and end up in a hospital?!" He glared at Gloria in disgust. "You again! You're a disgusting hypocrite! You partnered with that crazy Sparks woman and framed Vicky time and time again all those years ago. Heh! I guess a b*tch will always be-" >

He paused and recalled that Gloria was Vicky's cousin.

'If I call Gloria a b*tch, what does that leave Vicky?' he thought and swiftly changed his words.

"I guess a tiger can't change its stripes."

Vicky opened her mouth to speak when one of Alex's men came in. Mister Torres, Tyler Hart is here."

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Alex scowled. "So soon?" He then turned to look at Vicky." Vicky, Tyler is here. I'll need to go meet him."

Vicky's heart sank at the mention of Tyler's name, and she blurted out, "Take me with you."

He hesitated. "But..."

"Take me."

Alex could never decline Vicky. "Alright, but don't interfere.

This is between me and him, so just leave it to me."

She nodded with a dark look on her face.

"Vicky Shaw!" Seeing that Vicky was leaving, Gloria raised her voice. "Just let me go, and we can all pretend that this never happened."

Vicky stilled and turned to look at Gloria hesitantly.

Sensing that she was wavering, Gloria continued, "I know that you're upset about what happened that day, Vicky, but that's just how confidential contracts work... In any case, I am to blame for you getting sick, so I can understand that you want to vent your anger." She stared into Vicky's eyes." You've had your fun, Vicky. If this isn't enough, you can slap me in the face and we'll let this pass, okay? You don't want to cause a scene, do you?"

Alex sneered. "Miss Shaw sure is great at being the bigger person. Haven't you been waiting for Tyler to come here all along? He didn't wait to hurry over as soon as he heard that you were kidnapped. What a shame..."

Alex and Vicky grew up together, but he hated Gloria since they were at school.

He signaled one of the men to seal Gloria's mouth and said," Leave your hypocritic tricks to Tyler. They won't work on me. N

He then ignored Gloria and turned to Vicky. "Vicky, leave her be. Let's go."

Vicky hesitated for a moment before leaving with him.

Since Alex had informed Tyler about the kidnap, there was no point in setting Gloria free, so she decided to observe how Tyler reacted.

Vicky did not wait for Tyler in the same room as Alex and was arranged to wait in a conjoining room.

Through a unique piece of glass, she could see who was in the other room and hear what they said.

10 minutes later, Alex ordered his men to bring Tyler in.

Tyler looked towering in his black trench coat, and his intimidating presence instantly filled the room.

He scowled when he saw Alex sitting lazily on the couch, and a contemptuous look appeared on his face.

"Are your legs...better, Mister Torres?" he asked casually as he glanced at Alex's legs.

"You haven't changed a bit after all these years." i

Alex gritted his teeth at the contempt on Tyler's face, but he was not the same reckless man after four years.

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"Both Vicky and Gloria are here with me. Not only are you not nervous, but you have the gut to mock me? Do you truly think I won't do anything to your sweetheart?" teased Alex.

"I think so."

"Oh? I expected you not to care about Vicky, but...not even Gloria?"

Tyler stared at Alex. "You grew up with Vicky and would rather have your legs broken than leave her behind back then, so you wouldn't hurt her. Gloria, on the other hand, is your bargaining chip. If something happens to her here, how are you going to get out of Stoneford City unscathed?"

Alex clenched his fists.

Tyler always seemed as though he was above him. He never panicked and always remained unreadable.

Alex knew that playing mind games with Tyler would never work and be in.

"Tyler, since you're here, it means that you still care about Gloria. I don't want to waste my time with you, so it's simple if you want to get Gloria out." He clapped his hands, and a man brought over a written agreement. "These are two sets of divorce agreements. Sign them, and I will let Gloria go." Tyler picked up the documents and glanced through the pages casually before looking up with a half-smile when he reached the final page.

"Have you consulted with Vicky before you drew up this agreement? After all, she's been sharing my bed for years. Wouldn't it be cruel for her to end up with nothing?"

Alex scowled at his casual tone.

He had shown the agreement to Vicky before and Vicky did not say a word about it. After all, she did not want anything from Tyler. Tyler was an opportunist, and she failed to get rid of him even when she wanted nothing. If she asked for any type of compensation, she would never be rid of him.

"You don't want to worry about that." Alex's expression darkened. "Just sign."

Tyler set the document down and looked at him. "You kidnapped Vicky as well, didn't you? Why didn't you ask me to choose between her and Gloria and simply make the call for me?"

Alex scoffed. "As if you'd choose Vicky."

"And what if I do choose her?"

"Tyler, let's just cut to the chase. Considering how close Vicky and I are, I won't do anything to her even if you choose Gloria. Gloria, on the other hand... Well, let's just say that it won't be the same," he sneered viciously.

"You and Gloria Shaw are the two people I hate most in this world. If you take Vicky with you, Gloria...will be doomed. I'll destroy her face and her hands. I'll torture her in all ways possible that she'll regret having lived in this world altogether and regret ever getting to know you. She'll live to resent you for leaving her in the dirt!"

Alex crossed his legs lazily. "Tyler Hart, who will you choose, then?"

Alex seemed to be offering Tyler a choice, but there was no choice to be made.

He once thought of forcing Tyler to choose Vicky or Gloria, but Tyler was simply too sharp. An act like that would mean nothing more than a joke to him.

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Tyler knew how close Alex and Vicky were and that it was impossible for Alex to harm Vicky or allow her to be harmed, so there was no chance for Alex to pretend like he was going to hurt Vicky.

"I won't sign the divorce agreement. Now, get Vicky here," Tyler said.

Alex was unsurprised by Tyler's reaction. After all, he noticed four years ago that Tyler seemed to have a sick, perverted sense of possessiveness over Vicky.

If he wanted Tyler to let Vicky go, he would have to corner Tyler.

Alex glanced at his men and said, "Bring her in."

A few minutes later, Gloria-whose eyes lit up when she saw Tyler-was taken into the room.

"Mmph! Mph!" She struggled to speak but could only make a few muffled sounds when a tape was over her mouth.

The look in Tyler's eyes darkened when he saw Gloria in her state.

Tears gathered in Gloria's eyes when she looked at the handsome man before her. He would always come at the right moment to rescue her from danger.

Alex sneered when he saw the two staring into one another's eyes. "It's not time for you two to be all lovey-

dovey just yet. Mister Hart, you have to make your choice." Alex once again. "Mister Hart, sign the paper, and you may leave."

Gloria's eyes widened as she attempted to speak, albeit producing nothing but muffled screams.

Tyler's expression darkened. "Mister Torres, why don't you remove the tape on her mouth? Maybe I'll be more convinced to save her if she gets to plead for help herself."

It seemed to be an odd thing for Tyler to say.

Alex had never kidnapped anyone before and naturally did not know how it worked.

Being reminded of what to do felt horrible, but he could not deny that Tyler was right.

"Remove the tape," Alex said coldly.

As soon as the tape was removed, Gloria shouted, "Tyler, don't believe him! He's working with Vicky. There's no choice to make to begin with—"

Alex interrupted her angrily, "Gloria, you hypocritical b*tch. Have you no shame? Are you still trying to frame Vicky until this very moment?"

Gloria met Alex's eyes fearlessly. "You know what you did. If you're accusing me of framing Vicky, why don't you get her in this room and face me?"

"Face you? You don't even deserve Vicky's time!" sneered Alex contemptuously.

Gloria widened her eyes. "You don't dare to, do you? Here I thought that you are a man, but you're just a coward—"

Before she could finish, someone slapped her across the face in full force, and she fell to the ground.

"B*tch, know your place!" snapped one of Alex's men.

The look in Tyler's eyes darkened. "Alex Torres, tell your men to behave."

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"Behave? That depends on who we're dealing with," Alex said cruelly. "The kind of wh*re that knows no better than to get between couples and pretend to be weak so that men would fawn over her... Well, this is what she deserves."

Alex glanced at Gloria and turned his attention back to Tyler. "If you don't want your sweetheart to suffer, you'll sign the agreement right now, Tyler, or..." He narrowed his eyes ruthlessly. "Things are going to get worse for her."

He shot his man a glance, and the man immediately stomped his foot onto Gloria's hand.

"Ahh!" Gloria wailed in pain.

Tyler's expression darkened. "That's enough, Alex Torres!"

"Why? Do you feel bad for her?" Alex chuckled as he studied the look on Tyler's face.

"Were you acting like you don't have a care in the world just a few moments ago?"

It was rare for Alex to see such an expression on Tyler's face, and he felt accomplished.

"You wanted to pick Vicky, right? Go ahead, then. Or are you struggling to keep up the act?" He shot another glance at his man and the man stomped harder.

Snap!

The sound of bones snapping was faint, but everyone in the room managed to hear it through the sound of wind raging outside.

Gloria was a pianist and not only was it her career, but her lifetime hobby as well. To her, her hands were even more important than her life itself.

"Hand... My hand, ahh!" Unable to keep her composure, she stared at her hand and tears scrolled down her cheeks.

The more Gloria suffered, the more pleased Alex was.

He stared at Tyler and Gloria and laughed. "Tyler, you broke my legs in front of Vicky back then, didn't you? I'm going to do the same thing to you right now. Well? How does it feel?"

He paused for a moment before he viciously commanded, "Leon, destroy that b*tch's hand completely!"

"Stop!" A woman's voice echoed in the air, interrupting Alex.

A slim figure pushed through the door, and Alex froze. "Vicky, why are you here?"

He knew that Tyler cared most about Gloria's hands and that he would agree to the divorce if Alex threatened to destroy Gloria's hands.

Vicky scowled. "Alex, don't ruin her hands."

Frustrated, Alex blurted out, "Vicky, you would've been able to play piano if it wasn't for this b*tch! She robbed you of that option, so I'm going to do the same thing to her!"

Vicky was stunned. "W... What?"

"Vicky, you lost your memories, so you don't remember what happened, but I do. She forced you to swear that you'd never play piano again...and that's why you became a fashion designer, to begin with."

Even Tyler seemed shocked and glanced at Vicky.

"W—Why?" Vicky muttered in confusion.

Alex narrowed his eyes coldly and glared at Gloria. "Why else? She was jealous that you were better at it than she was. How else did she end up with her current status?"

"I, jealous of her?!" Gloria, who lay sprawled across the ground, chuckled darkly. "She would've never been in that position if she didn't impersonate me and refused to admit her wrongdoings!"

Alex did not know the entire truth and had only overheard part of the conversation between Gloria and Vicky in the past.

"Impersonate? Why would Vicky impersonate you?"

Gloria glared daggers at Vicky and said, "I was the one...who played the piano in the garden on Tyler's birthday, yet you told him that it was you!"

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Gloria started sweating from the pain. "I didn't force you to swear that you'd never play the piano. You were the one who felt guilty and didn't want the truth to get out, so you offered to never play the piano again. If you don't believe me, ask Tyler—see if I'm telling the truth!"

Vicky sensed that there was more to the story from Gloria's words and asked, "So you're saying that I've known Tyler...all along?"

Ever since Vicky lost her memories, all the things she knew were stories she heard from others. They mocked her for seducing and stealing men from others, and laughed at her for how low she was willing to sink.

She knew that she could not believe everything that was said in rumors, but she found answers after a while and learned that she had indeed found her way to marry Tyler with immoral means.

Everyone said that she tore Tyler and Sheila apart, but she already knew Tyler before Sheila got to know him.

She was Harvey's fiance then, and Harvey took off during his engagement party with Vicky to save Gloria, who was kidnapped at the time...all while Vicky herself was kidnapped by another group.

Vicky had always thought that that was the moment when she got to know Tyler, but Gloria suggested that Vicky impersonated her long before that.

Did I impersonate Gloria before or after I became Harvey's fiance, and her instinct told her that it was before.

According to what she was told, Tyler was already pursuing Gloria at the time she became Harvey's fiance. Tyler admired women who were skilled in piano, and Gloria mentioned that she was the one who played the piano in the garden on Tyler's birthday.

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All signs pointed to the possibility that everything happened before Vicky was engaged to Harvey.

She turned and looked at Tyler, but he simply lowered his gaze to stare at Gloria; his lashes concealing the emotions in his eyes.

Gloria's eyes widened in disbelief. "Don't tell me you don't even know about that."

"I don't," Vicky said. "Why don't you tell me?"

'Vicky lost her memories, and it's not strange that she's unaware of the past,' Gloria thought and turned to look at Tyler. 'But why didn't Tyler tell her?'

Gloria could not read his emotions. When she failed to respond, Vicky turned to Alex and whispered, "Ask your man to let go of her. This is between you and Tyler. Gloria has nothing to do with it. She wasn't even in the country at the time."

"But after what she did to you—"

"That's between me and her. I'll take care of that."

"She has Tyler to back her up, so the only way you can take care of it is to swallow your pride and compromise."

"It's fine. I know what I'm doing."

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Seeing how insistent Vicky was, Alex dismissed his henchman, who then moved his foot away from Gloria, but continued to pin her down to stop her from escaping.

Vicky kept her eyes trained on Gloria. "Can you tell me now?"

Gloria's hand was hurting, but she had other priorities.

She knew that Vicky had lost her memories and that what happened could not be undone. Gloria felt remorse and struggled to let go for a time, but she knew that it was too late.

Just as she was about to give up, Vicky plotted with Alex to kidnap her and destroyed her hand.

She glared daggers at Vicky and said, "That's right; you knew Tyler right from the start. Back then, we were both skilled in piano and Mister Victor took a liking to both of us, so he invited us to study abroad and we studied in the same art school. Sometime later, Mister Victor realized that you're just as talented in drawing as you are in music, so you studied art design as well.

"One time, Mister Victor offered us a rare chance to perform, and only one person could perform at the time. Usually, an understudy would be assigned to prevent anything from going wrong, and I went to the performance venue with you as your understudy. You were in a perfect state that day, so everything went smoothly, so I went to the garden to play piano on my own..."

She paused and turned to look at Tyler. "I left after playing one song and accidentally left my necklace there. Tyler happened upon it." Her voice grew gentler. "If it wasn't for that necklace, Tyler and I would've lived forever in your lie."

"Lie?" Vicky turned her attention from Gloria to Tyler. "After I impersonated you, what happened?"

Tyler remained silent, and Gloria simply opened her mouth to speak but stopped herself in the end. Her expression darkened as she quieted down.

Vicky realized there was more to the story and looked at Alex. "Do you know anything, Alex?"

Alex shook his head. "You said that you were studying abroad for two years. We kept in touch at the time, but you never mentioned anything and came back after just one year." If Alex knew nothing about it, neither would Sebastian since he never mentioned that Vicky knew Tyler from the start.

She stared at Tyler and muttered hoarsely, "Did we... Were we..."

Before she could finish, he said, "Yes. We dated for a time."

He remained expressionless without a hint of emotion in his voice. "It was my birthday that day when I walked into a garden and heard someone playing 'The Moonlight Bay' on the piano. I sent my men to look into who was playing it, and because you appeared in the garden after your performance, the person I sent mistook you for the person who played the song," he said casually. "When I asked you out, you didn't deny it."

Gloria and Tyler did not explain much, but Vicky managed to piece together the puzzle and realized their story resembled that of common soap opera, and she was the femme fatale of the story who plotted to take the heroine's place.

She thought that she could keep lying, but justice had its way of presenting itself at the right time, and the necklace exposed her lies.

Vicky felt amused and ridiculed when she realized that she had been Gloria's substitute right from the start.