

Loving You In Secret by Debbie Meza –

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Chapter 611

Tyler had shown more restraint from that day onward and stopped taking Vicky away from her dates with Noah, but he would follow them wherever they went.

His glare was so piercing that Noah felt chills down his spine.

He had been interested in Vicky and planned to pursue her when she succeeded in breaking up with Tyler, but he gave up after realizing how difficult Tyler was.

It was not that Noah feared Tyler because he was beaten before but because his instinct warned him that Tyler was a monster deep down despite his cool demeanor. At this very moment, Tyler was standing in the distance and staring at them.

Vicky noticed Tyler as well. The man stood out no matter what he wore given his tall, muscular build and handsome looks.

It was no wonder that Tyler had the confidence to question how Noah was better than him.

While Noah was a handsome man, he could hardly hold a candle to Tyler in terms of appearance and demeanor.

Noah's blood ran cold under Tyler's watchful eyes while he dined with Vicky, and he was so distracted that he accidentally dropped his spoon.

"Sorry," Noah said sheepishly.

Vicky glanced at his bandage-wrapped left hand and smiled. "Your hand is injured, so it must be hard to eat, right?"

She picked up a spoon and fed him a piece of vegetable. "I'll feed you." Tyler's glare on them intensified from afar.

"Vicky, you're killing me here," Noah mumbled.

"... He won't attack you again."

"Are you sure? Just look at the way he is looking at me... He wants me dead."

"He won't do anything. Relax."

Noah regretted ever suggesting to help.

He was the one who proposed that he could pretend to be Vicky's boyfriend in an attempt to impress Vicky, but he never expected Vicky's boyfriend to be such a madman.

Tyler was a typical sociopath who was extremely aggressive. He just managed to hide it well under his handsome looks, so most women would lower their guard in front of him.

Considering Tyler's distant, cold demeanor, no one would expect him to be such a person until they saw what insanity he was capable of.

At the moment, Noah was worried that Tyler would come over to stab him to death, and he would not even have to go to jail for committing murder if he was diagnosed with psychotic issues.

Just as Noah was absorbed in his imagination, Tyler started walking toward him, and he jolted in fear. "Vicky, your crazy boyfriend is coming over. He wants to stab me to death!"

They did not order steak, so there was no knife on the table nor was Tyler holding any weapon.

"Noah, he isn't holding any knife," Vicky said.

"He's probably hiding it! Once he's here, he is going to stab me, I'm sure of it!"

Vicky instinctively defended Tyler. "Noah, he's not that kind of a person..."

"He is! He definitely is!" Noah mumbled. "Judging from the look in his eyes, he is coming to kill me! I'm going to get stabbed by a psychopathic murderer in three seconds!"

"Noah, don't you think your imagination is running a little wild?"

As the two spoke, Tyler arrived before them.

"Vicky, Mister Canyer." Tyler wanted to ignore Noah but knew that it would upset Vicky.

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Vicky and Noah sat across from each other, so the chair next to Vicky was unoccupied.

Tyler went ahead to sit next to her. "I'm sorry. I misunderstood your relationship and injured your hand."

Noah glanced at Tyler pointedly and thought, 'What a great apology. Misunderstood our relationship, huh? He's saying that I'm not involved with Vicky to begin with.'

Vicky scowled. "What are you going on about here?"

'Has he forgotten about our promise already?' she thought.

"I'm here to...apologize," said Tyler calmly and turned to Noah. "Mister Canyer, I'm sorry."

The more Noah looked at Tyler, the more certain he was that Tyler was a sociopath. He could feel chills down his spine as he thought, 'Have I crossed a psychopath? If he is mentally sick, he won't even need to go to jail if he kills me.'

"Ahem!" Noah cleared his throat. "Forget about it."

"Mister Canyer was injured because of my mistake and now he struggles to even eat, so I intend on coming over to make up for my mistakes," Tyler said.

Both Vicky and Noah shot him a shocked look. "How?"

Tyler snatched the spoon out of Vicky's hand and said, "Since Mister Canyer is struggling, I'll be the one to feed him."

Noah's eyes widened in shock as he could not believe what he had just heard.

Vicky was sipping on her water and choked when she heard Tyler.

"Ugh! Ack! Ahem!"

Tyler reached out to tap her on the back gently. "Why are you so careless?" He then took a piece of clean tissue paper to wipe the water off her lips.

Noah choked at their interaction.

"I'm fine." Vicky moved away from his touch and shot him a doubtful look. 'What did you just say?'

"Since it's my mistake, I should bear responsibility for it." Tyler grabbed a spoon and attempted to feed Noah. "Please proceed, Mister Canyer."

"..." Noah did not know how to respond.

It seemed common for couples to feed each other and it would not be odd even if women fed one another, but it would be a strange sight if a man fed another man.

The other customers immediately turned to look at them judgmentally and at Vicky sympathetically.

Both men were outstandingly good-looking and so was Vicky, but it appeared as though the men favored one another instead of the beautiful woman before them.

Vicky could feel her cheeks burning with embarrassment as all eyes focused on her. Noah was a man with a wild imagination and felt his stomach turning when the others turned to look at him.

'D*mn it. If word about this gets to my family, my grandpa and dad are going to break my leg if they think I love men,' he thought.

He instantly cast his promise to Vicky aside and stood abruptly.

Vicky and Tyler immediately looked at him.

He chuckled sheepishly. "Hahaha, I suddenly remembered that I haven't fed my cats. You two carry on... I should go home to feed my cats now!"

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Noah immediately turned on his heels and ran.

Vicky turned to stare at Tyler sharply, who then said to her, "I'm just here to apologize and make up for my mistake."

"Are you making up for your mistake, or causing a misunderstanding?"

"What kind of a misunderstanding?"

Vicky was rendered speechless and gritted out, "That the two of you are seeing each other."

"Oh," he said carelessly. "Let's just eat."

Furious, she shouted, "Tyler Hart!"

He shot her a look. "Even if there's a misunderstanding, they're judging me, not you, so why are you all riled up?"

He served food to her plate. Noah left you behind, so it's not against the rules for me to stay with you."

Vicky felt defeated as Tyler always seemed capable of finding a way to get what he wanted.

Tyler had kept his promise and did not interfere with their dates after that, but he continued to watch them from afar everytime.

What confused Vicky further was that Noah would often make up an excuse to leave as soon as he arrived on the previous date.

"Vicky, I'm sorry, but my neighbor just called and said that a thief broke into my house. I should go back to see what's happening."

"I'm sorry, Vicky. My neighbor said that my cats ran away."

"My juniors in the school club are fighting for some reason, so I need to head back..."

"... My dissertation went missing. My lecturer is asking me to write another one."

There were times when Noah would call and excuse himself from showing up altogether.

"Vicky, my house went up in flames..."

"Vicky, I have a flat tire..."

Vicky, I've been robbed by a bunch of thugs..."

"Vicky, a flower pot fell from the sky and hit me right in the head..."

"Vicky, some thugs came and beat me up..."

In the end, Noah laid in the hospital bed with injuries all over his body, and he finally caved. "Vicky, why don't you...find someone else to help?"

He could no longer withstand all the torture, and any lingering feelings he had toward Vicky vanished completely.

'Tyler Hart is a madman!' he thought. 'If this keeps up, I'm going to die.'

Vicky studied the bruises on Noah's face and argued, ' Maybe these are just coincidences... Tyler isn't that kind of person.'

Noah's lips twitched.

None of these things had happened before he knew Vicky, and he simply had not stopped running into trouble ever since he started pretending to be Vicky's boyfriend, so he could not think of anyone apart from Tyler who could have done it.

"Um... Vicky, it's not that I don't want to help you... You see the state I'm in right now.

Whether Tyler is pulling the strings or not, I'm running out of luck lately, so I can't go on dates with you, and you won't get the result you want, n

Tyler would follow them whenever they went out for a date, and since Noah had gotten into accidents every single time, Tyler would take his date and claim Vicky's time himself.

What a ruthless man,' Noah thought. 'If this carries on, he might just poison me to death.'

Though the thought seemed exaggerated, Noah did not doubt that Tyler was capable of doing so.

He sighed and looked up at Vicky.

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"You are still in love with him, and you can't bring yourself to be cruel toward him.

Besides, he isn't the kind of man you can just get rid of simply because you want to..."

Noah studied Vicky sympathetically.

Despite Tyler's cold demeanor, he was an obsessive man and only death could tear them apart for as long as he loved Vicky.

'It's a good thing she loves him, too,' Noah thought. 'If she doesn't, he's going to be her worst nightmare.'

"If there's some kind of misunderstanding, you two should sit and talk it out. If he cares this much about you, he's surely willing to make compromises."

Vicky hesitated.

Knowing that she was wavering, he said, 'It's not that I don't want to help you, but if you can't bring yourself to be merciless, there are things you won't be able to do... Vicky, just think this through. If you have really made up your mind to get rid of him no matter the cost, come find me again.'

For a long time after that, Noah did not see Vicky again, and just as he thought that Vicky had finally decided to give up, she appeared before him once again.

Noah remembered the day when all news platforms reported that Hart Corporation was in a financial crisis and that it was on the brink of collapsing.

"Noah, I've thought things through. You were right... I haven't been able to be cruel toward him, and that makes it hard for him to give up on me..." Vicky stared at the television screen dazedly with determination on her face. "I need to show him that he's powerless when faced with true power."

Judging from Vicky's expression, Noah could tell that Vicky had made up her mind.

Tyler could hardly rival the influence the Canyers had at the time.

Noah thought that Vicky was determined, but he never expected her to be so merciless.

Had it not been for the occasional glimpse of agony that escaped her defense, Noah would have actually believed she no longer loved Tyler.

The two broke up on a stormy night and Tyler stood outside Noah's residential building throughout the night. Vicky watched him for the entire night, hiding behind the curtains. She did not shed a single tear and remained unwavering as though she was wearing a mask.

It rained for a day and a night, but Tyler stubbornly refused to leave.

In the end, he collapsed in the rain, and the composed facade Vicky had finally cracked. She ran downstairs and stopped when she saw Gloria running out of a car to help Tyler up.

After that night, Vicky and Tyler had severed all ties, and he had not come to see her again.

Years later, when Tyler became the new heir of Hart Corporation and rose to a position much higher than the Canyers, Noah could not help but recall what happened in the past.

It was not hard to imagine that those three months were the darkest time in Tyler's life. His girlfriend broke up with him, Hart Corporation was bought in a hostile takeover, his parents died, and he was even sent to prison for committing acts of violence.

Things have changed, and Tyler stood at the very top of the food chain. No one would have ever imagined he was once powerless and had his pride shattered.

Afterward, the Canyers ran into a crisis and came close to declaring bankruptcy. By the time the Canyers recovered and Noah finally had the time to care about anything else, years had gone by and Vicky ended up marrying Tyler.

Noah was not surprised by the outcome because he foresaw it from the very first time he saw Tyler.

The twists and turns along the way had been plotted and executed meticulously so that Vicky would end up by his side.

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By the time Vicky woke up again, two days had passed.

"Vicky!" Cece called out hastily. "Vicky, are you okay?"

Vicky studied the face before her and said hoarsely, "Cece? Why are you here?"

"Mister Hart said that you fell ill and was admitted to the hospital, so I came to see you."

Vicky paled. "How long have I been unconscious?"

"Two days."

Vicky struggled to sit up. "You..."

Cece stopped Vicky and said, "Don't worry, Vicky. The situation has been resolved."

"Resolved?"

Cece nodded. "Mister Hart helped." She observed the look on Vicky's face. ' Selene has issued a public statement to apologize to our studio."

Vicky glanced around and Cece said, ' Mister Hart has gone to work and will probably drop by later after work... He has come here every day or the past two days."

Vicky did not react much to the information.

Seeing how Vicky seemed exhausted, Cece said, "Vicky, rest for a while longer. I will get the doctor here."

Vicky nodded weakly.

At night, Tyler arrived as promised but not alone.

He came with Gloria and Selene, who seemed reluctant to be there.

"I wasn't the one who asked her to stand in the rain, so why should I have to apologize?" Selene muttered.

"Selene!" Gloria warned.

Selene quieted down.

After waking up in the afternoon, Vicky took another nap and felt much more energized.

When she saw the three who came in, the look on her face hardened.

Cece started to stare at Gloria and Selene warily. "Why are you here?"

"I'm here to apologize," Selene said casually as she glanced at Vicky. "Sorry. If

One could not tell if she was apologizing to Vicky or Cece.

Cece did not respond and simply looked at Vicky as if it had been Selene's aim to crush Vicky.

"Who are you apologizing to, Miss Rathborne?" Vicky asked calmly.

Selene's expression darkened, and she was about to retort when Gloria stopped her by shooting her a warning glare.

"I'm apologizing to Miss Lynn. I've misunderstood her. I'm sorry."

"Misunderstood?" Vicky stared at Selene. "Was it a misunderstanding, or were you trying to frame Cece?"

Unable to suppress her anger any longer, Selene roared furiously, "Vicky, you're being out of line here! I've already apologized. What else do you want?"

Vicky smiled. "Sure. Cece was just bullied and condemned by countless people on the internet and has her career ruined, whereas the almighty Miss Rathborne has to lower herself to apologize... What a difficult position you are in, Miss Rathborne," she said sarcastically.

Selene's expression darkened and was about to insult Vicky, but she instantly paused when she saw Tyler standing there without a word.

She paled slightly and turned to notice that Gloria was glaring at her, so she bowed reluctantly. "I'm sorry, Miss Lynn. I was wrong." Neither Vicky nor Cece said a word in response to her apology.

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Selene remained still, and after some time, her anger began to escalate. Just as she was about to say something, Gloria said, "Vicky, if you want some kind of compensation, name anything. We will do our best to fulfill your wish."

Vicky glanced at her. "A casual apology from Miss Rathborne and a simple promise of compensation is supposed to cancel out all the damage done to our studio and Cece's reputation?"

Gloria paused. "I will compensate twice the loss to the studio, and I will make a public statement on social media about the truth. My dresses for any concert in the following year will be ordered from your studio, and after each performance, I will include your studio's name in my social media as well. Is that okay?"

Gloria was proposing to be the spokesperson for Vicky's studio.

As a world-famous pianist, Gloria never had to worry about money despite the downfall of her family. She never accepted any roles in commercials and rejected offers that paid over eight digits in the past, which went to prove just how difficult it was to hire Gloria as a spokesperson.

Considering Gloria's popularity, one could only imagine how many orders Vicky's studio would receive with her as the spokesperson.

Cece glanced at Vicky and thought, 'Vicky and Tyler are in a strange stage of their relationship right now, and based on what I know about Vicky, she might not agree to it.'

"Sure," Vicky agreed right away.

Cece, Gloria, and Selene were all stunned.

Vicky turned to look at Cece. "Cece, go and draft a contract based on the terms Miss Shaw proposed.'

Though shocked, Cece asked, "Should... Should I go now, then?"

"Go ahead."

Shortly after, Cece returned with a printed copy of the contract.

Gloria did not expect Vicky to agree to her terms, but since she had made a promise in front of Tyler, she could not go back on her promise. After taking a look at the contract, Gloria signed her name on the very last page.

Vicky signed her name as well and signaled Cece to put the contract aside.

"Since this has been resolved, it's time we discuss the other thing." Vicky stared at Selene. "How are we going to deal with the fact that Miss Rathborne here drugged Tyler?"

Tension rose in the air.

Selene panicked at first, but she immediately regained her composure." Vicky, what are you talking about? You were the one who received the drug from Gloria. How am I involved in any way?"

"Would you prefer that I present the evidence right in front of you, Miss Rathborne?"

Vicky questioned.

Selene choked on her words.

Just then, Tyler, who had remained quiet the entire time, spoke out, "Get out, the two of you."

Gloria glanced at him hesitantly but dragged Selene out of the room without a word in the end.

Vicky and Tyler were soon left alone in the room, and Vicky looked up at the man before her. 'Are you trying to protect Selene, or do you still think that...I did it?"

"Selene would've never had the chance to do what she did if you hadn't agreed to Gloria's terms."

Vicky instantly realized that Tyler had found out the truth, as it was never difficult to investigate.

Had Tyler not been so certain that Vicky did it, Selene's bungled acts would have never managed to fool Tyler.

Still, Selene succeeded in the end.

'Can I blame Selene?' Vicky thought. 'Standing in her shoes, it seems reasonable that she wants to bring Gloria and Tyler together.'

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As Tyler had claimed, Selene's plan would have never worked if Vicky did not give her the chance, so both Vicky and Tyler had their fair share of responsibility to bear for what happened.

A few moments later, Vicky said, "Can you let Alex and Jennifer go?"

"I don't have them."

She scowled. "You didn't capture them?"

He stared at her with his cold, dark eyes. "First of all, why would I release Alex only to capture him again? Secondly, if I want to kidnap Jennifer to threaten you, I wouldn't hand her over to her fiance."

Realization dawned on Vicky that Tyler was right.

On the day Tyler said that he wanted a divorce, he agreed to let Alex go. If he was concerned that Vicky might not agree to the divorce, he could have refused to let Alex go entirely.

She was misled to think that Tyler was behind everything because Adam destroyed her studio.

I did think that it's unlike Tyler to resort to such barbaric acts... Who knew?' She thought with a conflicted look on her face."... Where is Alex right now? " she asked.

"With the Torres family," he said expressionlessly. "His father found out that he ran to Stoneford City again and captured him before grounding him.

"But Jennifer..."

"Anthony probably found out that we're getting a divorce and that I fell sick, so he took the opportunity to kidnap her."

"Why did you fall sick?" she blurted out.

Tyler did not speak and simply stared at her intently.

Realizing that she was out of line, Vicky lowered her gaze to hide the emotions in her eyes.

Tyler took out his phone to make a call and said, "Bring Adam in."

A few minutes later, Harry entered the room with Adam, and Vicky shot Tyler a confused look.

"Go on," Tyler ordered.

Adam fell to his knees and said, "I was the one who...took it upon myself to destroy Miss Shaw's studio.' He gritted his teeth and continued, "Miss Shaw has put Mister Hart in danger time and time again... That morning, she was the reason why Mister Hart ran into a car accident. Since Mister Hart meant to divorce Miss Shaw, I wanted to teach her a lesson in a fit of rage."

He was gambling on the chance that Tyler would ignore whatever happened to Vicky once their divorce was finalized.

To his bewilderment, Vicky found out about the truth ahead of time and passed out in the rain.

The more Adam thought about it, the more certain he was that Vicky was a calculative woman who ran into the rain to seek Tyler's sympathy.

'Why else would Mister Hart get involved?' he thought. 'He had already decided to divorce her.'

Vicky was stunned as she did not expect the truth to be this way.

Did I misunderstand Tyler, then?' she thought, feeling as though she was suffocating.

Tyler did not trust her and concluded that she was the one who drugged him without bothering to look into it.

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At the same time, Vicky never trusted Tyler.

Silence fell over the room once again, and sometime later, Tyler's cold voice echoed in the air. "Adam, it seems like you aren't suitable to stay here in Stoneford City... Go home.'

Adam jolted and looked up in shock. "Mister Hart, old Mister Hart told me to—" Tyler interrupted him forcefully. "Don't make me repeat myself."

Adam instantly quieted down.

Tyler shot Harry a look, and Harry immediately dragged Adam out of the room.

As soon as the door was closed, Adam exclaimed in disbelief, "Harry, is Mister Hart chasing me out?! I thought he was going to divorce Vicky, so what is the meaning of this? Can it be that—" He paused and widened his eyes. "Can it be that Mister Hart is regretting his decision again?"

Harry glanced at the door and pulled Adam further away. "Adam, this is Mister Hart's private matter. We're just his assistants..."

"You don't understand!" Adam interrupted him hysterically. "That woman is trouble! She was the reason why he came close to being thrown into prison back then..."

Harry instantly picked up on his words. "Back then? Adam, do you know something that I don't?"

Adam knew that he had let it slip but saw no reason in hiding the truth any longer since he was about to be chased out of the city, and Harry would soon find out about it.

"I found out about it from old Mister Hart."

"Old Mister Hart?"

Adam lowered his voice. "Mister Hart's real grandfather."

Harry jolted in shock. "Real grandfather? Are you suggesting that..."

Adam nodded. "Mister Hart doesn't actually belong to the Hart family here. They took the wrong baby home all those years ago... According to what old Mister Hart remembers, Mister Hart's adoptive mother gave birth at the same time, and since both families shared the same last name, the nurse kind of messed up."

Harry scowled. "How did they find out about it?"

"Well, Young Mister Hart doesn't really look like the Mister and Missus Hart that I serve. Besides, the Harts have always been talented and blessed with great genes, with the only exception being Young Master Hart. Old Mister Hart thought that it was just the result of Missus Hart spoiling him, but he grew suspicious and got a DNA test in private..."

Adam paused and continued, "It turns out that 'Young Master Hart' isn't actually a descendent of the Harts at all. The Harts are powerful enough to find out about what happened all those years ago, so old Mister Hart found Mister Hart right away, but Mister Hart... didn't want to return to his biological family at the time. Old Mister Hart tried to tempt him with money and power, but Mister Hart wouldn't even budge, which actually impressed old Mister Hart even more."

Adam looked up at Harry. "I was sent to serve Mister Hart by old Mister Hart. Back then, I heard that Mister Hart suffered a great deal at the hands of a certain woman... I didn't know who it was and, since Mister Hart was pursuing Gloria when I started working for him, I didn't suspect Vicky at all... It

A sarcastic sneer appeared on Adam's lips. "Throughout the years, Mister Hart has been seen with countless women, but photos of him with Vicky have never surfaced, so even old Mister Hart was unaware that Mister Hart married Vicky. Old Mister Hart didn't find out about it until a while ago...but it was already too late."

"Too late?" Harry asked in confusion.

Adam smiled bitterly. "What I mean is that...old Mister Hart can no longer control Mister Hart, so no one can stop him."

Realization dawned on Harry. "In recent years, Mister Hart would occasionally disappear from the office and can't be found in his house at all... So he's been spending time with his actual family?"

"Yeah." Adam sighed. "When I was transferred out of Stoneford City the first time, I didn't return to the Harts, so I don't know what Mister Hart has been up to. I didn't even know that Mister Hart and Vicky used to date each other. I've only heard it all from old Mister Hart. Honestly, no one in the family wants Mister Hart to return except for old Mister Hart, especially... Mister Hart's biological parents."

Harry scowled. "Why not?"

"When the fake Young Mister Hart found out about the truth, he wanted to intimidate Mister Hart and sent his men after Mister Hart's girlfriend at the time...Vicky."

"What happened after that?" Harry asked.

"Though Young Mister Hart hasn't been involved in the attack himself, he was beaten and made...less of a man."

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Realization dawned on Harry. "So, that's why Madam Hart hates Mister Hart?"

Adam nodded. "That man did grow up by Madam Hart's side, so there's a bond between them. Though he wasn't talented, he was great at making his parents happy and has always been an obedient child. Missus Hart even went as far as to pick Young Mister Hart's fiancée. Elders would always prefer obedient children even if they aren't at all talented. Back when old Mister Hart found out about the truth, he informed his son and daughter-in-law about it right away. His son reacted well and agreed to accept Mister Hart back into the family, but the madam...didn't react as well. The two met with Mister Hart once after that..."

"I don't know what happened during the meeting, but Madam Hart seems to resent Mister Hart even more since then. Young Master Hart probably felt threatened by Mister Hart, so he started plotting to take Mister Hart down. In the eyes of the Harts, the Shaws are just as important as any ordinary family even before they declared bankruptcy. Old Mister Hart thought that Vicky wasn't a worthy match for Tyler and would probably be pleased if she was out of the picture... Still, Vicky was someone special to Mister Hart, and in a fit of rage, Mister Hart injured Young Master Hart right in front of Madam Hart. She passed out right away and hated Mister Hart ever since. As for the other members of the Harts, their reason for not wanting Mister Hart to return to the family is simple. Young Master Hart is hardly eligible as an heir, but Mister Hart is different... If he returns to the family, he'd become a formidable competitor for the test."

Harry glanced at the room. "And now..."

"I don't know either." Adam shook his head. "Mister Hart called me back because he intended to focus on the Harts, which meant that he did plan to divorce Vicky. As for what he's thinking right now, who knows?"

Harry agreed, as he was clueless as well.

After Harry and Adam left, silence fell over the room.

Vicky studied the towering man before her and felt a lump in her throat. After a while, she said, "I'm sorry for misunderstanding you."

He did not respond.

Vicky recalled something and lowered her gaze bitterly. "I've signed the divorce agreement... You can proceed with the procedures whenever you have the time." Whatever happened, he had already slept with Gloria, and a divorce was inevitable because he needed to care for Gloria.

In the end, Selene's plot succeeded.

As she was absorbed in her thoughts, she heard a loud thud and looked up to find that Tyler had left through the door.

Shortly after he left, Cece returned. "Vicky, were you fighting with Mister Hart again?"

"No."

"I ran into him just now, and he seemed upset..."

Vicky fell into silence.

Cece instantly realized that the two were talking about something upsetting, so she changed the subject. "Vicky, do you really intend on getting Gloria to fulfill her promise?"

"Yeah. Is there a problem?"

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"But Gloria..." "I know what you're worried about," Vicky drawled. "Our studio has suffered a great loss because of the rumors Selene spread. If Gloria is willing to take responsibility for Selene's crimes, let her be. She should know that Selene would be going to prison if she doesn't offer us something."

Vicky refused to let the event pass simply because Selene apologized.

"Sending Selene to prison will make us feel better, I suppose..." Vicky continued. "But, we have to consider the reality as well. Even if Selene makes a public statement to clarify, our studio has already been affected, and we'll have to compensate a handful of customers for the delay in receiving their orders..."

Though Vicky had married Tyler, she spent only her hard-earned money and never relied on Tyler regarding her career, so she would be thankful as long as Tyler did not make everything harder for her.

Having Tyler's help like how he invited Maestro Warner for Gloria was something Vicky dared not to dream of, so she had to refrain from acting willfully regardless of realistic consideration.

"Even if I don't accept her offer, what about the next time? I can't exactly avoid showing up on any occasion where Gloria will be seen, right?"

Especially when this whole thing isn't my fault."

Cece thought about it and realized that Vicky's words were sensible." You're right, Vicky. It's not worth sacrificing our career just to teach Gloria a lesson."

She paused and continued in contempt, "Everyone keeps praising how elegant and prideful Gloria is, but she won't stop hanging around Mister Hart despite knowing he's married... If she really doesn't intend on stealing him, she should've stopped seeing him altogether."

Vicky did not respond and simply stared out the window dazedly.

Two days later, Vicky was discharged.

Since the way she regained consciousness, Tyler had not visited again- not that Vicky was too troubled by it.

There were a lot of matters to handle in the studio, and Vicky was instantly swarmed by work.

With Jennifer missing, all the orders for male costumes were left unattended, so Vicky had to contact the customers to apologize and compensate for the inconvenience. One day, Vicky arrived at a restaurant hastily and found the man she was supposed to meet waiting.

"I'm sorry," she said apologetically. "The road was terribly congested."

The man was in his thirties and wore a pair of gold-framed glasses and a suit, giving him an appearance of a brilliant elite.

However, despite his appearance, the way he scanned Vicky made her feel extremely uncomfortable.

"You are the owner of the studio?" He studied her intently. "Your studio sure has a lot of beautiful employees."

Vicky was used to being looked at in such a manner and sat across from the man. "I'm sorry, Mister Shear, but something urgent came up and Jennifer had to rush home. I'm afraid we won't be able to produce the costume you ordered..."

Jennifer had gone missing and had not answered any calls or texts. Neither Vicky nor Cece knew if Jennifer was being imprisoned, nor was simply hiding from Anthony. Either way, the costumes would not be produced in time.