

Loving You In Secret by Debbie Meza

- Chapter 731 – 740

Chapter 731

Vicky had stopped dreaming altogether.

Ever since she was discharged, Tyler had not been home.

She wanted to talk to him, but he was nowhere to be found, and she was clueless as to what he had been doing.

One day, she happened to walk past Hart Corporation.

Upon hesitating for a while, she decided to go up to see Tyler.

She desperately wanted a divorce before but changed her mind after remembering some things. Hence, she decided to postpone the divorce until after she recovered all her memories to prevent herself from regretting her own choice.

She reached the top floor smoothly and knocked on the door to Tyler's office, but there was no response.

Tyler was not in his office.

Since there was still time, she decided to wait in his office.

Her identification had not been erased from the system, so she entered the office with ease with her fingerprint.

She glanced at his desk and noticed that the laptop was on and his car keys were on the table, which indicated that he would be back.

She wanted to sit and wait for him when she spotted a phone that resembled hers on the desk.

Vicky rubbed her eyes in disbelief, but she finally confirmed that it was indeed her phone after spotting the familiar-looking phone shell.

Tyler's men were known for their efficiency, and she was pleased that they managed to find her phone so soon.

She walked over to grab her phone, fully expecting it to be out of battery after being left unattended for days, but to her bewilderment, the screen lit up.novel.xo

She unlocked her phone and opened the messenger application to see if the hacker who changed her password made any transaction, but she froze at the sight.

There was a history of conversations during the time when she failed to access her application, and the most recent one took place three hours ago.

Did the hacker use my number to scam others?' she thought, her heart sinking.

She immediately glanced through the conversation with a man, who was a customer that Jennifer had served in the past.

Since Jennifer was gone, Vicky contacted this customer to discuss compensation for not being only to fulfill her end of the contract and the customer agreed with the terms without hesitation.

The man was in his twenties and came from a wealthy family. He used his own photo as his profile, and anyone would agree that he was decent-looking.

The conversation was rather simplistic.

The customer sent a message. [Miss Shaw, can I buy you a cup of coffee sometime?]

The person who used her account replied. [Scram.]

There was a notification that appeared afterward, indicating that the hacker had blocked the customer, only for the customer to make another request to send her a message again.

The customer's text read, [Miss Shaw, what's wrong?]

The hacker replied, [I'm married. Don't you know that?]

The customer then texted, [... I didn't know.]

[Do you know now?] replied the hacker.

The customer's reply read, [Yeah...]

The hacker added, [Then scram.]

[...]

The conversation ended here, likely because Tyler had to leave abruptly and did not have the chance to block the customer.

Just as Vicky moved on to view other conversations, the door to the office was pushed open.

Chapter 732

A man strode in while on the phone, only to stop when he spotted Vicky inside.

Tyler swiftly ended the call and closed the door behind him before walking over to Vicky with a frown. "Why are you here?"

Vicky stared deep into his eyes with a half-smile playing on her lips. "Surprised?"

He stared at her wordlessly, and Vicky gazed down at her phone.

"Are you as surprised as I am?" She turned her attention back to him with a frosty expression.

"Tyler, you were the one who hired someone to steal my bag, right?"

He took in the anger on her expression and said, "Have you just noticed?"

She froze and gaped at him in disbelief, not expecting him to admit to his crimes so easily. There was no guilt or remorse in his tone, almost as though he had the right to do what he did.

Furious, Vicky questioned, "Tyler Hart, what on earth do you want?! You agreed to the divorce, so why would you play all these dirty tricks..." She paused and widened her eyes in realization. "Have you been toying with me?"

He shot her a careless glance. "You are smart for once."

"Was it fun?"

His lips curled into a smile. "Watching you head out early every day only to return home alone without accomplishing anything, and filling you with doubt that I left you hanging on purpose before dismissing you with a few words have indeed been rather interesting."

Vicky clenched her fist. "What is wrong with you?"

He sat on his desk and picked up a document to ignore her completely.novel.xo

Ever since Vicky recovered part of her lost memories, she had started reconsidering if she wanted a divorce. However, seeing how Tyler took joy in toying with her without feeling any guilt or remorse filled her with anger.

She showed him the screen of her phone and questioned sharply, "What's with all these conversations?"

Tyler did not bother looking up and drawled, "Can't you read?"

'It's bad enough that he stole my purse, my phone, and all my identification documents. How dare he hacked my messenger and impersonate me to chat with others?' she thought.

Vicky glanced through her contact list and noticed that there were quite a few contact profiles missing. When she opened the blacklist, she noticed that her friends, including Sebastian, Alex, and Harvey, were all blacklisted.

The ones who were not on the blacklist were presumably deleted completely.

"How old are you, Tyler? Can you stop being so childish?"

He continued reading the document in hand and ignored her.

"Tyler, what exactly is it that you want?"

Tyler acted like he did not hear a word she said and signed the last page of the document.

She stood by his side and studied his face, before saying, "Tyler... You don't want a divorce anymore, do you?"

He paused and looked up. "Yes."

Vicky thought that he would make up excuses to justify his action and did not expect him to admit to it right away.

She stared at him and asked, "Why?"

He put the document away and leaned back elegantly.

Chapter 733

"No reason." "You were the one who asked for the divorce this time."

"So what?"

"If you didn't want a divorce, why did you ask your men to deliver the agreement to me?" She stared into his eyes. "I won't believe you if you try to play it off as a prank."

Tyler looked up and met her gaze. "I did want to divorce you, but you wouldn't sign the agreement, and I started having second thoughts."

Vicky narrowed her eyes. "Why?"

"You wouldn't oblige when I wanted a divorce, so why should I accept it when you want it?"

Amused, Vicky mocked, "Tyler, don't you think you're being childish?"

"Childish or not, you're not getting away unless I say so."

Vicky did not bother asking what she could do for him to agree to the divorce. After a long silence, she said, "I came here today to speak to you about something, Tyler."

He stared at her quietly, waiting for her to continue.

"I've thought things through and decided that I won't divorce you until I get all my memories back." She observed his expression carefully and said, "I keep feeling like I'm missing something important... so I'm not going to bring divorce up again until I remember everything."novel.xo

With that, she paused and waited for Tyler to respond.

Tyler remained unwavering, but the look in his eyes darkened.

Vicky waited patiently for a while, but since he refused to react in any way, she could not tell what he was thinking.

"If that's it, then... I'll leave now," she said.

Tyler hummed in response and returned to reading the documents on his desk.

At night, Tyler finally returned home after being absent for so long.

Vicky was stepping out of the shower when he arrived home.

She was slightly taken aback when she saw him but did not make any comment about it.

Tyler took off his jacket and headed to the bathroom.

As she watched his familiar figure, her breath caught in her chest.

She recalled the time when they first met and relished in the memory as she had always considered it her most precious memory.

'Is he really that disgusted by the memories of our past?' she thought.

When Tyler stepped out of the bathroom, Vicky had already gotten into bed and closed all the lights. She was, however, not asleep and could hear every single sound he made as he walked over and got into bed.

She paced her breath to pretend like she was asleep.

However, Tyler was no longer the man in her memories who would wrap his arms around her gently, worrying that he might wake her.

Tyler pressed his body against hers and planted a forceful kiss onto her lips with strength enough to wake a person who was deeply asleep.

Vicky wanted to protest, but he did not give her the chance and simply deepened the kiss.

Since then, both Vicky and Tyler stopped mentioning the notion of getting a divorce.

One day, Cece arrived at the hospital early and noticed that Vicky was nowhere to be seen, so she called her.

“Vicky, where are you now?”

“I’m almost the-” Before Vicky could finish, Cece heard a deafening noise on Vicky’s end.

Baam!

At the same time, the call ended abruptly.

Chapter 734

Startled, Cece immediately tried to call Vicky back, only for her call to go straight into the answering machine.

She called once again, but the results remained the same.

Cece knew that Vicky had been kidnapped multiple times, and since she could not reach Vicky, she could not help but wonder if Vicky was kidnapped or in some sort of accident again.

Cece darted out to find Vicky anxiously as soon as the elevator reached the first floor and accidentally bumped into the person who was walking into the elevator.

“I’m sorry,” she blurted out before turning to leave.

“Miss Lynn?” A surprised voice was heard from above her head.

Cece paused and looked up. “Mister Gardner?”

She knew that Harry was Tyler’s assistant and recognized him right away.

Harry studied the panic on her face and asked, “What happened, Miss Lynn?”

He knew how close Cece and Vicky were, and he suspected that Cece was panicking because something happened to Vicky.

Cece sobbed. “Vicky... Something bad might’ve happened to

Vicky...”

Harry dared not to take anything that happened to Vicky lightly and asked, "What happened? Can it?" He paused and added, "I might be able to help you."

If Vicky was kidnapped, Cece knew that she had no capability of rescuing Vicky on her own, whereas informing Harry about it would mean that Tyler would learn about it as well.

She instantly explained everything she knew, and Harry's expression darkened.novel.xo

"Miss Lynn, please wait for a moment. I'm going to go upstairs and inform Mister Hart about this."

"Mister Hart is in the hospital as well?" Cece asked in shock.

She was only in the hospital because Vicky scheduled a follow-up with her doctor this day.

Why is Tyler here? Is he here to check on Vicky?' she thought.

Ever since the hypnosis failed, Vicky would suffer from severe headaches whenever she recalled events of the past. Still, Vicky did not give up on recovering her memories and was actively trying to reach out to memories experts overseas.

Harry nodded and said, "I'll go now, then."

Cece dared not to delay him and said, "Okay."

Meanwhile, Tyler stood tall beside the window outside the surgery room.

Gloria was scheduled to undergo surgery to remove any scarring on her hands this day.

Ding!

Just then, the elevator door opened, and Harry strode out with a dark look on his face.

"Mister Hart." He walked over to Tyler and explained the situation efficiently, "I ran into Miss Lynn just now, and she said that she heard a loud noise when she was on the phone with Missus Hart earlier. She suspects that Missus Hart might be kidnapped or in a car accident."

The look in Tyler's eyes darkened, and he immediately took out his phone to make a call. "Send me Vicky's location," he commanded.

10 minutes later, Tyler's phone rang and his subordinate reported, "Mister Hart, Missus Hart seems to be in a car accident..."

Tyler listened to the briefing calmly and hung up before turning to leave without hesitation.

"Hey! Tyler, where are you going?" Selene, who was also waiting outside the surgery room, hurried over and stood in Tyler's way. "Tyler, Gloria is still in surgery."

Chapter 735

"Get out of my way," Tyler said coldly.

Selene's breath caught in her throat as fear overwhelmed her, but she quickly regained her composure. "Tyler, you know whose fault it is that Gloria injured her hands. I know you're a busy man, but are you so busy that you can't even spare half an hour?" She stared directly into

Tyler's eyes." Half an hour later, Gloria's surgery will end. What will she think if she doesn't see you when she wakes up?"

Earlier, Selene noticed the dark look on Harry's face and overheard that Vicky had been in an accident.

'She deserves it!' Selene cheered inwardly, but she did not expect Tyler to leave without hesitation upon hearing the news.

Gloria had told Selene that Tyler refused the invitation to show up for the concert at the end of the month, so it was reasonable for Gloria to expect Tyler to at least remain by her side during her surgery.

"Miss Rathborne, Missus Hart has been in a car accident. Mister Hart needs to head over to check on her," Harry explained.

"Gloria just entered the surgery room, and she happens to be in a car accident at the same time. What a coincidence.

Who knows if she staged it herself?" Selene scoffed.

Tyler's expression hardened as he growled, "This is the last time I'm saying this. Get out of my way."

Selene widened her eyes and swallowed any arguments she had.novel.xo

Tyler was hardly as tolerant as Harvey.

After what happened the time before, Selene knew that she would have suffered a terrible fate if Gloria did not plead for mercy on her behalf.

Not daring to stand in Tyler's way any longer, she could only stand aside and watch as he left.

Gloria's surgery was a success, and she woke up shortly after the surgery.

When she woke up to find only Selene by her side, she paused for a moment and asked, "Where is Tyler?" i

Tyler was still around before she entered the surgery room, and she could not understand where he had gone in just two hours.

Selene proceeded to explain everything to her sarcastically, "Vicky did this on purpose! She staged a car accident when you were in surgery to get Tyler to leave your side! Gloria, I told you that she knows a lot of dirty tricks! I can assure you that Vicky isn't in a car accident. There's probably not even a scratch on her right now!"

Gloria smiled coldly. "Is that so?"

With that, she fell into silence.

Vicky was indeed in an accident, but she was merely a little shaken and was not injured.

She wanted to call Cece to explain everything, only to realize that her phone had run out of battery.

Ever since Vicky lost her memories in a car accident, she stopped driving altogether.

At the moment, she watched helplessly as two drivers absorbed in a heated debate before her eyes.

It was not a severe accident, but both drivers were short-tempered and would not rest until someone took the blame.

Just then, a black car stopped next to Vicky.

The car window rolled down to reveal a break-takingly handsome face.

"It's been a while, Vicky," he greeted huskily.

"Harvey?" Vicky was slightly surprised. "Why are you here?"

"I've just gotten off the plane." Harvey opened the door and got out of the car. "I heard that Gloria is undergoing surgery today, so I came to check on her."

"Surgery?"

"Yeah. I heard it's to remove the scars on her hand," he said. "Why are you here, Vicky?"

"I'm scheduled for a follow-up in the hospital, and..." Vicky

glanced at the two drivers who were still fighting. "An accident happened."

"Follow-up? Are you ill, Vicky?"

"No. I just fainted some time ago and recovered some of my memories. It's just a routine body check."

An odd look appeared on Harvey's face. "You've... gotten your memories back?"

Chapter 736

"No," Vicky said. "I only got some part of my memories back. There's still a big part that's missing."

"Which part of your memories did you recover?"

"The ones of me when I first met Tyler."

A glimpse of emotions flashed by Harvey's eyes. "I recall you telling me that you knew Tyler long before you knew me. Are those memories about your time with him when you first met?"

Vicky did not notice the odd look on his face and nodded. "Yeah."

Harvey seemed curious about her past and asked, "Can you tell me how you met?"

It was hardly an unspeakable secret from Vicky's perspective, so she answered truthfully, "He overheard me playing the piano in the garden..."

She paused as she only recalled what happened after Tyler found her but nothing of her playing in the garden.

'Gloria keeps saying that I impersonated her... Was I really in such desperate need of money that I pretended to be her when Tyler came looking?' she thought.

Harvey noticed that she was absorbed by her thoughts and asked, "Vicky, what's wrong?"

She snapped out of it. "Nothing. I just realized there's something else that I haven't remembered."novel.xo

Vicky's heart sank as she agreed that it would be despicable of her if she had truly pretended to be the person Tyler was searching for. Hence, she could understand why Gloria would resent her, or call her a thief. 1

Sensing her gloomy mood, Harvey changed the subject." Vicky, hop in. I'm on my way to the hospital as well."

Vicky was worried about Cece, so she nodded without hesitation.

They were not far from the hospital and arrived within 10 minutes.

Instead of going straight to Gloria, Harvey helped Vicky search for Cece, but Cece was nowhere to be found outside the doctor's office.

Vicky wanted to borrow Harvey's phone when his phone started ringing.

He answered it and Selene's confronting voice instantly blasted through the speaker. "Harvey, what's going on? Gloria's surgery has ended. Where are you?"

Harvey frowned and did not bother to explain himself. "I'm already in the hospital."

"It's no wonder that Gloria doesn't like you. You were never around whenever she needed you. I don't even know what you've been doing to be gone so long... You don't know how much Gloria has suffered lately. Vicky is so vicious and she

purposefully injured Gloria's hand in an attempt to stop her from playing the piano ever again!"

Selene's voice was extremely loud and the corridor was empty, so Vicky heard every word she said.

Harvey narrowed his eyes in disgust and said, "I'll be right over." He ended the call without a warning.

"Is today the day for Gloria to undergo surgery?" Vicky asked.

Harvey nodded.

"I'll come along with you to check on her, then," she said.

"Sure."

The two went into the elevator and reached the floor where Gloria's room was located. They knocked on the door and headed inside.

Inside the room, Selene was hysterically badmouthing Vicky at her best effort. "Seriously, I've never seen a woman as shameless as she is! Gloria, you two must have a huge grudge from

your past lives for her to keep stealing your men! I swear, she must've staged that car accident so that she can draw Tyler away!"

Chapter 737

"Vicky's always been good at seducing men. She spends most of her time with them, calling everyone her friend.

Both of her best friends are guys who are in love with her... I think she's been seducing them and has kept them hanging. Will she die if she doesn't have men's attention for once? Why is she so hungry for attention?"

Only Selene's voice could be heard from the room, and Gloria had not whispered a word in response.

When Selene heard the door opening, she paused and said to Gloria, "I think Harvey is here... Ha! It's about time that Tyler knows he's not your only option."

She turned around to start complaining, "Harvey, come look at Gloria! While you were gone, Vicky bullied Gloria with everything she could think of. Gloria saved your life once, so aren't you going to make this right for-"

Before she could finish, she spotted Vicky standing behind Harvey and choked.

After a brief moment of silence, she jumped. "Vicky Shaw, why are you here? I thought that you...oh, I see!" Realization dawned on her, and she pointed at Vicky while shouting, "Gloria, I told you that she wasn't in a car accident! Look at her. She is standing here, perfectly fine. There isn't even a scratch on her!"

"Car accident?" Vicky scowled. "What are you talking about?"

"Keep up your act!" Selene turned to look at Gloria dramatically. "Gloria, you believe me now, don't you?"novel.xo

Gloria did not say a word and simply glared at Vicky resentfully.

Harvey took a step forward to shield Vicky from Gloria's glare before asking, "Gloria, how are you feeling now?"

Gloria shot him a casual glance and said, "I'm fine."

"How long until you'll make a full recovery?"

"A week."

"I heard that you'll be having another concert at the end of the month. I have time then, so I'll be there to support you."

Gloria narrowed her eyes slightly and said, "You say that now, but you might not make it on that day. Besides..." She paused, and a half-smile appeared on her lips. "I remember that you're least interested in music, if anything. You'd fall asleep if you listen to someone play, so what's with the sudden interest in coming to my performance?"

The smile on her face was sarcastic as her tone took a sharp turn. "Harvey, are you just trying to make small talk because you don't want me to bully your ex-fiance?"

Gloria had always been a gentle and polite woman, so she was rarely this aggressive. However, at this moment, she was like a hedgehog that was under attack. Unable to control her emotions, she said, "Harvey, don't tell me that you're protecting this thief!"

"Gloria, Vicky isn't a thief."

Gloria smiled and continued in a frosty voice, "Harvey, have you gone blind for Vicky's sake?"

Her words were overbearing and offensive at this point, and Selene could not help but glance at her in silence.

She had never seen such a fierce side of Gloria in the past and realized that the series of misfortune that occurred to Gloria had pushed her over to the edge.

Harvey frowned and was about to say something when Vicky, who remained quiet the entire time, spoke out.

Chapter 738

"Gloria, from the moment I saw you, you keep calling me a thief. You need evidence to make an accusation, so what kind of proof do you have to accuse me of impersonating you?"

Gloria narrowed her eyes hatefully. "You once admitted to it in front of me and Tyler. Besides..." She pulled out a necklace that was hidden underneath her clothes. "I found this necklace back then in the garden. I confirmed with Tyler, and he said that he dropped it."

She stared at Vicky provocatively. "Why don't you call Tyler in here and we sort this out once and for all? Why don't you ask Tyler if this necklace is his?" Gloria lowered her gaze to the necklace and said, "I once returned it to Tyler, but he gave it to me as a gift. He said that this was proof that he got the wrong person back then. He also said that..." She looked up, her gaze fixated on Vicky with determination. "With this as proof, I can make one request to him."

She paused before gritting out, "Anything...at all."

Vicky clenched her fists and thought to herself, 'Anything?'

She got Gloria's hint and knew that she meant to say that she could ask Tyler to divorce Vicky anytime she wanted.

Vicky felt a lump in her throat at that very moment.

Gloria continued, "Even if you have him now, what's stolen will always remain as stolen. I've let you have him for long

enough. It's time for you t-"novel.xo

Before she could finish, Harvey interrupted her. "Vicky, Miss Rathborne, can you leave the room for a moment? I need to talk to Gloria alone."

Selene knew that Gloria was hysterical at the moment, so she did not add fuel to the fire and simply left obediently.

Vicky stood still for a few moments before turning to exit the room as well.

The door closed, and silence loomed over the room.

“Gloria.” Harvey took the initiative to break the silence. “You are out of line.”

“Is that all you want to say to me?” she asked sarcastically.

After a long silence, he said, “Do you know what I’ve been doing?”

“I don’t.” Gloria remained cold and distant. Due to her disgust and contempt for Vicky, she had directed a fraction of those feelings toward Harvey as well.

Her resentment toward Vicky had reached its peak after Vicky had drawn Tyler away by faking a car accident, so Gloria started seeing anyone who took Vicky’s side as her enemy.

Harvey studied Gloria and asked, “Gloria, do you really think that Tyler is going to fall in love with a woman just because he had a glimpse of her back?”

Chapter 739

Gloria lifted her gaze abruptly to stare at Harvey. “What are you trying to say? Are you trying to tell me that Tyler wouldn’t have fallen in love with me even if he ended up finding me instead of Vicky back then?” 2

“Yes,” Harvey uttered slowly, his words like sharp blades cutting into her heart. “Even if he found you, he would’ve never fallen in love with you. Besides, it was actually Vicky whom he was looking for... Gloria, he found the right person, and Vicky never tried to impersonate you.”

Gloria was stunned for a few moments, but she soon started cackling. Her often-soft voice sounded extremely sharp and unpleasant.

“Fine. None of you would believe me. You all think that I’m lying. But that would mean that either Tyler or your lover, Vicky, are lying about it as well, right? Or are you going to say that the necklace I happened upon isn’t Tyler at all?”

“None of you lied.” Harvey looked into her eyes. “You did play ‘The Moonlight Bay’ that night in the garden, but that doesn’t mean Vicky has never shown up at the same spot the same night.”

Gloria paused. “What do you mean?”

“Recently, I dug into what happened back then. The reason why all this happened is that Vicky went to the same garden to practice the same song before her performance that

night. She appeared in the garden before you did. Tyler’s men located her after that...so she was under the impression that Tyler had been looking for her.”novel.xo

Gloria clenched her fists. “What about the necklace I found, then? Was it a fake one? Was it not Tyler’s?”

“It’s true that you found a necklace that belonged to Tyler, but since Vicky appeared in the garden before you did, how would you know if Tyler dropped the necklace when he was listening to you play, or when he was listening to Vicky play? When you saw the necklace, I

suppose you tried searching for the owner, right? Did you see anyone in the garden at the time?"

Gloria was rendered speechless.

She had indeed searched around for the owner of the necklace, but the garden was empty at the time.

"That doesn't mean Vicky was the one he was looking for!" she gritted out.

Harvey stared into her eyes and said cruelly, "Gloria, as I said before, Tyler can't possibly fall in love with a woman just because of a glimpse of your back. It doesn't matter who he saw at the time. What matters is—"

Gloria interrupted him hysterically. "Why doesn't that matter? If he didn't see me or look for me, he would've never gotten to know Vicky! Without me, they would've never ended up together!"

Harvey stared at her with a dark look in his eyes, wondering how the young woman who once saved his life had become such a stranger.

After a long silence, he decided to tell her the truth.

"There was no surveillance camera in the garden back then, but there were a few at the entrance. Tyler was seen rushing out of the garden at the time, and you weren't in the garden when he left." He paused and continued, "You must've wondered what makes me so certain about that, right? It's because a woman was having an accident out in the hall at the time and you performed CPR on her, which was captured by the cameras."

Gloria froze, as she distinctively remembered saving a woman back then.

It was not after the ambulance arrived that she went to the garden.

"Gloria, if you don't believe me, I can show you the surveillance footage," Harvey continued. 1

Gloria remained dazed for a long while before muttering while sobbing, "If the person Tyler was looking for wasn't me, why...would Vicky and Tyler admit to it? Were they toying with me?"

Harvey shook his head. "It's because you happened upon Tyler's possession and became extremely certain that he was looking for you. You were so determined about it that Vicky started having doubts as well. Since Vicky admitted that Tyler was looking for you, it's understandable that Tyler would be misled as well. Most importantly..."

Gloria looked at him. "What?"

Chapter 740

"None of them think that this is important, so both Vicky and Tyler didn't think much of it or look into it. Vicky happened to break up with Tyler at the same time, so none of them had the energy to focus on you. That's why the misunderstanding continued for years," Harvey said.

"Misunderstanding?" Gloria repeated sharply. "Why don't you just come right out and say that I've been living in my fantasy?"

Harvey fell into silence for a moment and said, "I know you're not that kind of a person. Besides...it's normal for you to misunderstand after picking up something that belonged to Tyler. Gloria, this isn't your fault."

"I don't believe you!" she mumbled and shook her head frantically. "If Tyler doesn't love me, why would he pursue me?! Why would he be so tolerant of me? He even gave me that same necklace that he dropped!"

Harvey could tell that she was hanging on by her last hope and shattered her last bubble mercilessly. "That's because you looked like Vicky from behind. He's always been seeing you as Vicky's substitute."

"Impossible!" Gloria shouted. "Vicky was still clinging onto Tyler when he pursued me—"

"If Vicky was still in love with Tyler at the time, why would she get engaged with me?" Harvey interrupted her.

"It's because she looks down on Tyler's family background! After that, Tyler gained success in his business, and you failed, so she turned her attention to Tyler instead!"

Harvey stared at the pale look on Gloria's face. "Why didn't you ever mention to me that Vicky once dated Tyler?"

Gloria froze in an instant. She moved her lips slightly to speak, but no words would come out.novel.xo

"It's because you knew Tyler's feelings toward Vicky were far more complicated than that. Why else would you keep him hanging all back then? Was it really just your way of testing him?"

Gloria looked away.

Harvey took her silence as the opportunity for him to continue, "You didn't accept him because you always knew that Tyler didn't truly love you. He only pursued you because you were a substitute for Vicky but also because..."

He paused when he saw the tears scrolling down Gloria's cheeks, knowing that exposing the truth was cruel to her.

She looked up and said, "You want to tell me the truth, right? What else is there? Go on. I want to know what I mean to him."

After a few silent moments, Harvey said, "There's another reason why he pursued you, and that's because...you're Vicky's cousin. If he pursues you, he'll be able to get closer to Vicky. Think about what Tyler is capable of for a second. It's a piece of cake if he really wants to get rid of a woman

he doesn't want." Harvey's lips curled into a sneer. "Do you know why you were kidnapped on the day of my engagement party with Vicky?"

Gloria shivered, and another tear fell from her eye. "Can it be that..."

Harvey nodded. "I found the kidnapper who did it back then and he came clean, saying that Tyler staged it all. He

wanted to separate me and Vicky, and to..." He pursed his lips, and his expression darkened.

Though he was not in love with Vicky when they were engaged, having his fiance defiled by another man was a humiliation to any man.

Tyler had been the one pulling all the strings, yet Harvey was the one who had to bear all responsibilities. He lost the right to condemn Tyler because he was the one who chose to save Gloria instead of Vicky, yet everything turned out to be a trap set up by Tyler.

"Gloria, I'm telling you all this in the hope that you can give up on Tyler in time, or he'll keep using you. Do you really think that he's caring for you because of guilt or love? That's not it. All the so-called compensation that he's been making are just excuses for what he truly wants. He's been using you, Gloria. Once you lose your values to him, he'll abandon you and cast you aside as he did with Sheila.

"One last thing. After some consideration, I decided to tell you this, and it's up to you what to do with this piece of information. I won't intervene again."