

Loving You In Secret by Debbie Meza

Chapter 941

Noah would not have risked his life to agree to Vicky's invitation. Cece glanced at the two and said, "Jennifer and Noah seem like a good match. It's way better than to let her waste time on that jerk, Anthony." Vicky knew Noah and that he was a great man. "Cece, should we tell Jennifer?"

"About what?" Cece asked in confusion.

"That Noah likes her."

Vicky can't stop Noah from pursuing Jennifer as it was his right to do so, but she could inform Jennifer about it to avoid her from feeling awkward. Plus, if she was not interested, it could save Noah from the embarrassment.

"I don't think that's necessary," Cece said. "Noah is a great guy and Jennifer has already wasted enough time on Anthony. It's about time that she steps out of her comfort zone to meet other men. Maybe she'll finally stop being so stubborn. Besides..." Cece lowered her voice.

"Jennifer may look cheerful on the outside, but I actually haven't seen her laugh like this for the longest time. If Noah can make her laugh, we should give him a chance."

Vicky followed Cece's gaze and spotted the beaming smile on Jennifer's face.

After the gathering, the four of them stepped out of the private room. Noah displayed his gentlemanly manners and offered a ride, "It's getting late. Let me escort you all back."

Cece wanted to create an opportunity for Noah and readily agreed. Jennifer, on the other hand, was interested in the story that Noah had not finished earlier and also agreed.

Vicky did not say otherwise seeing how the other two had agreed.

Just as they were about to head towards Noah's car, a figure with an elegant and slender presence blocked their way.

As they looked up and caught sight of the handsome and refined face, the expressions on everyone's faces but Noah's changed.

Cece held a hostile attitude toward the man in front of her and immediately stood in front of Jennifer. “Anthony, what are you doing here?”

Anthony’s gaze pierced through Cece and landed on Jennifer, who stood behind her. “Jennifer.” His voice was as soothing as a spring under the moonlight, deep and pleasant. “I’d like to have a private conversation with you.”

“We’ve already said everything we needed to talk about.”

Jennifer’s tone turned cold. “Right now, I have nothing to say to you.” Ever since Anthony abandoned her on the highway for Lily, Jennifer completely lost faith in the man standing before her.

Anthony was never someone with a good temper, so he took a few steps forward, intending to forcibly take Jennifer away.

It was the perfect chance for Noah to step in as the hero as he

intercepted Anthony. “Sir, where do you intend to take Jennifer?”

Only then did Anthony notice that there was another man present.

Hearing him call Jennifer’s name so intimately, Anthony furrowed his brows with disgust. “And you are?”

Before Noah could speak, Jennifer, who was by his side, suddenly grabbed his arm and spoke loudly, “This is my boyfriend, Noah. Anthony, I already have a boyfriend, so please stop bothering me!”

Vicky and Cece were absolutely baffled; Even Noah himself was momentarily taken aback by the news.

It felt all too familiar like it had happened before.

Before Noah could make sense of it, Anthony’s formerly calm and composed face instantly turned gloomy and icy within an instant as he questioned, “What did you say?”

Noah glanced at Anthony’s expression, which had suddenly changed, and was further overwhelmed by the sense of familiarity with the situation he was in.

‘Is this what they call the deja vu effect when someone feels like they have been in an unknown situation before?’ Noah thought to himself.

Unaware of what was going through Noah’s mind, Jennifer clung to his arm and stared into Anthony’s eyes. “I’m saying I already have a boyfriend, so please refrain from bothering me in the future. As for our engagement, I will discuss it with my parents and yours. Don’t worry, I’ll take full responsibility for calling off the engagement and for getting you in trouble.”

Chapter 942

The look in Anthony's eyes darkened.

At this point, Noah finally grasped the situation and realized that yet another woman he was interested in had a complicated relationship with her ex.

Noah felt as though the world was against him no matter what he tried to do.

Since everyone was watching, he did not deny anything and simply stood quietly.

Years ago, he greatly suffered the backlash of pretending to be Vicky's boyfriend because he did not look into Tyler's background ahead of time. 'And now...' He thought while staring at Anthony. 'I can't be that unlucky to run into the same kind of lunatic twice, right? A man should always be bold in the pursuit of what he wants.'

His mood greatly improved at the thought, but at that time, he was unaware that he would soon come to regret his choice that day. Sadly, it was possible for lightning to strike the same place twice...

"Jennifer!" Anthony's voice resonated in the surrounding area. "I've already made it clear to Lily that I won't marry her. You are my fiancée. In the future, you will become my wife."

Jennifer had heard these traps one too many times. The word wife was so tempting, so she deceived herself and, in the end, she was met with endless disappointment.

"Anthony!" Jennifer gazed into his eyes. "How many times do I have to repeat myself for you to believe me? I already have a new boyfriend."

Her tone was light, yet it held an unprecedented calmness and determination. "There is no way we can be together anymore. I don't care if you want to be with Lily or anyone else, it has nothing to do with me, do you understand?"

"Your parents have always hoped that we would be together-

"That's what they hope, but that's not what I want. To be honest, over the years, they keep telling me how great you were, and that I've been brainwashed by their fantasies, thinking that you're the only one for me. Now, I've met someone else and suddenly realized... Hey, you're so not my type." She tightened her grip on Noah's arm and glanced at him.

"Noah is."

Anthony glanced at Noah, and a hint of disdain appeared in his eyes.

"That guy?"

Vicky glanced at Anthony and then silently looked at Noah. In terms of appearance and temperament, Noah was a bit inferior compared to Anthony.

Anthony's attitude was strikingly similar to the Tyler she knew from the past.

Noah had a clear and refined appearance, a gentle temperament, and lacked any aggressiveness. Compared to men like Tyler and Anthony, who exuded a strong aura and oppressive presence, he lacked a certain edge.

Jennifer was starting to get annoyed and clung to Noah's arm as she spoke loudly, "Noah graduated from a renowned art and music college in Molivia and is skilled in various musical instruments! I like men like Noah. I won't allow you to speak ill of him!"

Noah felt content hearing Jennifer's words. As Jennifer's current stand-in boyfriend, he naturally had to speak up. "Sir, you heard what she said. She doesn't want anything to do with you, so please refrain from bothering her, alright?"

In the past, Tyler would have reacted violently upon seeing Noah and swiftly knocked him down with a punch. As opposed to Tyler, Anthony clearly had a different personality. A dangerous glint flashed in his eyes and suddenly, his face paled as he reached out to cover his chest.

Jennifer instinctively let go of Noah's hand and approached with concern. "Anthony, what's wrong? Are you feeling unwell?"

Seeing this, Vicky and Cece exchanged glances while Noah raised his eyebrows.

Anthony furrowed his brows. "My chest hurts..."

"Your chest?" Jennifer, being naive, immediately fell for it. She quickly approached and supported Anthony's weight. "Why would your chest hurt? I don't remember you having any heart-related problems."

Chapter 943

"Must be from overwork or something. I came looking for you as soon as I landed in Stoneford City, so I haven't been getting enough rest."

A heart attack could be a potential risk for those who exhausted themselves for a prolonged period of time, so Jennifer instantly started panicking.

"We need to send you to a hospital to get checked. Let's hope nothing is wrong."

Anthony, on the other hand, stared at her steadily with his dark eyes. "You still care about me, Jennifer."

She froze and realization dawned on her. "Were you faking it?!" She angrily shoved Anthony away, but he held onto her arm tightly. "Jennifer, let's talk."

Her expression hardened. "Let. Go. Of. Me."
"Jennifer..."

Cece interrupted him. "Jennifer, maybe you should talk to him, so that he won't bother you anymore in the future."

Jennifer was soft-hearted, and Anthony had grown up with her; judging from the recent situation, he clearly knew exactly what to do to manipulate her.

Despite Jennifer's tough refusal, there was no telling what might happen if Anthony kept pursuing this matter. Hence, it was best to make things clear once and for all by deciding if Jennifer wanted to forgive him, or to cut all ties.

After hesitating for a few seconds, Jennifer finally nodded. "Okay."

After Jennifer and Anthony left, Noah sent Cece and Vicky back home. Throughout the journey, Noah couldn't help but sigh and wore a troubled expression.

Cece, too, was burdened with her own thoughts and did not try comforting him.

Upon returning home, the room was desolate, and Tyler still had not returned.

Vicky took out her phone and checked it, but there were no missed calls or messages.

Vicky opened the message history with Tyler and realized that their last exchange was half a month ago when he had told her that he would not be home for dinner, and she had simply replied with an okay. After which there was no further communication.

Vicky scrolled up to review the previous conversations, which mostly revolved around working overtime, social events, meetings, and not coming home to rest. As she continued scrolling, the exchange became more intimate and sweet.

[Are you off work?] Tyler typed.

[I'm afraid I have to work late today. You should go ahead and eat. There's no need to wait for me.] She replied.

[Alright.] Tyler responded.

That day, when she was finally done with work, she found Tyler's car waiting downstairs.

It turned out he had been waiting for her since he asked if she had finished work.

Above those messages were photos she had sent to him.

There was a photo of a beautiful bouquet of roses, accompanied by a short message, [Thank you for the flowers. I really like them.]

Tyler replied, [I'm glad you like them.]

Tears blurred Vicky's sight as she looked at the sweet exchange on the screen.

She finally realized her mistake and wanted to start anew, but he was no longer the same person as before and even wanted to divorce her.

Her heart ached as she struggled to catch her breath.

She had already planned their future in her mind, but he no longer wanted her.

Suddenly, her phone vibrated.

Vicky wiped away the tears from the corner of her eyes, and a simple short message blinked on her screen.

Chapter 944

[Are you alright?]

She glanced at the phone number on the screen and a gloomy look appeared in her eyes.

It must be from the man who refused to give her his name, and he had left her his number on the day he paid.

She glided her fingers across the screen and replied. (When did you find out?)

[Early on.]

[You found out when I chose him over you, right?] She typed.

[Yes.]

Vicky stared at the message carefully and replied. [Have you been helping me all these years?]

[Does it matter?] The man replied.

[Yes.]

There was a ten-minute gap until the man finally replied. [I have.]

Vicky was not shocked or surprised after reading the message. After all, she's been suspecting this person for the longest time. She just never heard him outwardly prove her right.

Vicky stared at the screen of her phone and typed. [I'm sorry,

but even in that case, I won't help you.]

[It's alright.) The mysterious man seemed unconcerned. [I understand your predicament.]

A mix of complex emotions surfaced within Vicky. [The investments you made in me over these years can be seen as a failure. I have nothing to offer you in return.]

[Sometimes, effort doesn't always guarantee a reward. You shouldn't stop trying just because there's no immediate return. Perhaps you may believe you have nothing to offer now. In truth, I have gained quite a lot from helping you.]

[Are you referring to you asking me to marry Tyler to keep him in check?]

She replied. This was what the mysterious man had told her in the past.

Vicky felt bitter as she thought back to the time when the mysterious man said that she was the only one who could keep Tyler under control.

[That was in the past. It's not the same anymore.]

[It was smooth sailing, right? Why the sudden change?]

To this, Vicky replied with just three words. [I don't know.]

In this world, all things were possible and not everything happened for a reason.

She wondered for a time if Tyler had some troubles or secrets that he could not share, and she would not have doubted him as long as he asked her to trust him.

Soon, another message arrived. [This weekend, Tyler is going to meet a young lady from a prominent family. It seems there are intentions for an arranged marriage. Did you know about this?]

Vicky trembled. [What?!]

[Seems not.]

[What's going on exactly?) Vicky hastily typed.

The man explained. [Tyler may be able to hide things from you, but not from someone who has been keeping a close eye on him. After his parents found out about what he's been doing, they started arranging potential marriage partners for him.]

[Aren't they fond of Aria? Why would they introduce him to someone else?) She asked.

[While it's true they have a favorable impression of Aria, Tyler doesn't seem very interested in her. If Tyler doesn't like Aria, they'll personally find someone else to replace her. The world is vast, and there will always be someone he favors. I even heard he's interested in women

with excellent piano skills. It seems Tyler's parents are keen on fulfilling his preferences.]

Vicky's hands and feet suddenly turned numb as she responded. [What about Tyler? Did he accept it?]

[I'm not entirely sure about the details, but the meeting between them this weekend has already been scheduled.]

Vicky stared at the message for a long time before finally replying.

Chapter 945

[Can you send me the time and venue of their meeting?]

A few minutes later, Vicky received a message containing the information she asked for.

Time flew past and soon, the weekends arrived. Thankfully, Vicky reached the hotel ahead of time.

It was the most luxurious hotel in all of Stoneford City and all the guests here were of high status.

She found an isolated corner that guaranteed the best view and waited. Sometime later, her phone vibrated when a message was sent to her, saying, [They're here.]

She looked up at the door, and as expected, a handsome and aloof man strode in gracefully.

His perfectly pressed black suit accentuated his already tall and slender figure, making him exceptionally striking. His deep, clear eyes resembled an abyss, and his sharply defined face remained expressionless. Yet, the man exuded an air of nobility that catches the attention of passersby. Following behind him, walking alongside two middle-aged women, was a young lady from a prominent family.

She glanced in the man's direction as her cheeks blushed with shyness. She quickly lowered her head, afraid of being noticed. One of the women accompanying the young lady bore a resemblance to her, while the other was Tyler's mother, Valencia.

Orion and another middle-aged man entered after them, chatting and laughing.

A staff member greeted them and led them all to a private room.

Witnessing this scene, Vicky's fingers unconsciously clenched into a fist as she thought to herself, 'We haven't even gotten a divorce yet, and Tyler is already getting set up with another woman?'

Vicky wished she could storm in and ask Tyler if he truly had no feelings left for her, but ultimately, she forcefully suppressed that impulse. Were

she to barge in now, Tyler would likely render her speechless as he had before, claiming she was making premature accusations at him when he had not done anything.

Vicky took several deep breaths, trying to calm herself down. Just then, her phone vibrated lightly again.

[Come to the private room V003.]

Vicky's gaze flickered, and she looked around.

There was nothing unusual in her surroundings.

After pondering for a moment, she stood up and headed to the designated room mentioned in the message.

She lightly knocked on the door and entered the private room. Inside, a man with a gentle demeanor could be seen pouring tea.

After she entered, he smiled and said, "Vicky, please have a seat."

The private room was large and spacious, but apart from the man, there was no one else present. Vicky looked at him and asked, "Sir, why are you here?"

The man handed her a cup of tea and replied, "If I didn't come here earlier, Tyler would have been alerted of your presence."

Upon hearing Tyler's name, Vicky's expression gradually turned sour.

She accepted the tea, lowered her head, and remained silent.

"Do you want to know what they're talking about?" The man continued. Vicky raised her head and asked, "Did you bug the room?"

The man nodded. "Ever since you asked me where they were meeting, I knew you would be here, so I made arrangements in advance."

After the man finished speaking, he switched on the listening device.

Soon, the conversation in the other room could be heard from the listening device.

"Tyler, Miss Starling is not only proficient in various arts, including music, chess, calligraphy, and painting, but she also holds a doctorate in music and is a renowned musician

in the industry, she's almost on par with Gloria," Orion was heard saying.

"Don't you prefer girls who can play the piano? Aurora rivals Gloria and your ex-wife in every sense," Valencia added.

Chapter 946

"Ex-wife?!" Vicky silently mouthed as she slammed her fist onto the table, causing the steaming hot tea to spill onto the table.

The scalding liquid grazed her hand, leaving a reddened patch on her fair and delicate palm.

“Are you okay?” The man quickly stood up.

At the same time, a voice unfamiliar to Vicky, that of a middle-aged man, sounded from the listening device.

“We all know that Tyler used to be married. The reason we’re here today is to show that we are willing to accept his past. What I want to know is... When will your side of the matter be settled?”

“Yes.” The voice of an unfamiliar middle-aged woman chimed in, “When will this marriage finally end?”

“Soon. Tyler has already drafted the divorce agreement,” Orion said.

“That woman is nothing more than a jumped-up nobody. How could she ever compare to my boy? Don’t worry, this marriage will definitely be over in the near future,” Valencia added.

Still, there seemed to be lingering doubt from the other side. “Aurora can’t be with Tyler indefinitely only to be labeled as the homewrecker in the end, right? We need to know a precise timeline so we can prepare ourselves.”

Orion chuckled. “At the latest, it will be finalized this month. Any qualms?”

“Are you certain?” The other side questioned.

Valencia spoke up, “Tyler, you did agree to go through with it, didn’t you?”

After a few seconds of silence, a cold and deep voice came through the device. “Yes.”

Before this moment, if there was still a glimmer of hope lingering in Vicky’s heart regarding Tyler, it had now completely extinguished after that simple confirmation.

‘He admitted it,’ Vicky thought. ‘He didn’t even hesitate. He really admitted it.’

Vicky suddenly felt like a fool; a complete and utter joke.

He had already started meeting potential matches, yet she was unwilling to believe he would stoop to such actions. She had even held a slight expectation for him.

At that moment, the man next to her pressed the button, summoning a waiter with a first aid kit. The waiter quickly arrived, bringing back the kit in just a matter of minutes.

“You burned yourself,” the man said. “It needs to be bandaged to prevent an infection.”

Vicky remained dazed and oblivious to her scalding wound. Her gaze was fixated on the listening device as the sounds of laughter and conversation buzzed.

The young lady's father said, "Aurora honey, why are you sitting so far away? Come sit next to Tyler."

"Pour another glass of wine for Mister and Missus Hart," the mother said. Judging from the conversation so far, it became clear to her that it was an official meeting for the two families that planned to be united through marriage.

When Vicky failed to respond, the man next to her sighed and opened the first aid kit to tend to her hand.

Orion and Valencia did not stay for long and excused themselves soon after; so did the young lady's parents.

Anyone could tell that they were merely trying to give Tyler and the young lady time to spend alone.

Once the parents left, the atmosphere of the room fell silent.

Sometime later, Aurora spoke up sheepishly, "Mister Hart, what would you like to eat? Let's order something, shall we?"

"Sure," Tyler responded coldly.

Aurora called the waiter in to order a few dishes.

Chapter 947

The dishes she ordered surprisingly matched Tyler's taste, so Tyler could not help but take another glance at her. "Did you look into me?" He asked.

As his gaze met hers, Aurora's face blushed slightly, but she did not avoid his gaze. "Of course, you are my future husband. It's only natural to inquire about your preferences. It would be awkward if I ordered something you didn't like."

"Your future husband?" Tyler's lips parted slightly. "How do you know that I will definitely be your husband?"

"I don't." Aurora's expression was shy, yet her eyes were resolute. "All I know is that fortune favors the bold.

Therefore, I have to make an effort, at the very least."

"If I recall correctly, Miss Starling, this is our first time meeting."

"Yes, I am aware."

"Since it's our first meeting, why did you assume I'd want to be your husband?"

"Because... I like you."

“You like me? What do you like about me?”

“You’re handsome, charismatic, and hold a remarkable status. You’re also part of the Hart family. I like you and want to marry you. Is that strange?”

Tyler reminded her, “I was married once.”

“I know.” Aurora looked at Tyler. “For an exceptional man like you, having had a marriage before is quite common.” She paused for a moment and smiled sheepishly. “Actually, in the beginning, I refused when my parents wanted me to marry you. Like most young ladies, I was not fond of arranged marriages. My parents said that once I see you, I will definitely grow fond of you. I didn’t believe them, so I secretly came to Stoneford City... After meeting you, I finally realized what they meant. I genuinely like you, and not for any other reason...” Aurora chuckled.

“Just your looks alone are enough. To be blunt, for us girls, physical attractiveness accounts for sixty percent of our choice of a romantic partner. As long as you’re handsome, we can be more lenient with other requirements. As for your previous marriage... that’s even less of an issue.”

Tyler’s voice was calm. “You’re straightforward.”

“I prefer being straightforward. It’s better to openly discuss things rather than blaming each other later.”

“What are your requirements for a husband?”

Aurora smiled softly. “I don’t like a marriage of convenience, nor do I want a marriage in name only. You can have your fun out there, but you can’t have extramarital affairs or bring trouble to me.”

Upon hearing those words, Vicky’s fingers trembled lightly.

The man next to her thought he had hurt her and asked, “Did I hurt you?”

Vicky shook her head. “What did Miss Starling mean by that? rv

The man chuckled. “It’s simple. She means to say that Tyler can sleep around, but he can’t keep lovers, nor can he do anything that will threaten her position as his wife.”

“Do men like women like that? Do they want a wife that turns a blind eye whenever they sleep around?” She asked.

“The men you are referring to don’t include me,” the man said. “If one doesn’t plan to settle down, they shouldn’t get married in the first place. Isn’t it far better to just have your fun to the furthest extent before getting married?”

Just then, Aurora raised another question. "Mister Hart, what's your requirement for your wife, then?"

After a brief moment of silence, Tyler's cold voice sounded. "To not be unreasonable."

Aurora was slightly shocked. "Huh? That's it?"

"Yeah."

"But that can be easily achieved."

Tyler's tone remained sensible and calm. "Somethings sound easy at first, but greed is like a black hole that can never be completely filled as time goes by. You may start off wanting just the person physically, to wanting their hearts, and to become their one and only. All troubles originate from greed."

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