

# Love Amidst the Shadow

## Chapter 14

Seeing that the woman who was grasping Adam's collar was Anita, the woman who followed Kelly around, I was surprised. Adam saw me approaching and immediately charged into my arms. He clarified with his eyes reddened, "I didn't do it on purpose, Vivian!" Anita was also taken aback to see me before letting out a snicker, belittlingly stating, "Ah, looks like we have the whole pack in here. The sister staged an accident, and the brother tripped a dear woman. The barbarism must be in the blood!" Pursing my lips, I glowered at her. "Forgot to clean your fusty mouth this morning?" "Why you!" She leered at me angrily, and as she was about to continue, she was interjected by the noblewoman who was helped up by Mom. "Relax, Anita. I'm alright. It's not a big deal." Since it was indeed Adam's fault for bumping into someone, I had him apologize to the noblewoman, to which he obediently did. The noblewoman smilingly nodded and replied with an amiable look, "Don't worry. I was careless as well." "Mom!" Kelly and Emil walked into the restaurant hand-in-hand toward us. The noblewoman beside me turned to them with a passionate beam. "Oh, you're here." Hostility flashed across Kelly's eyes when she glanced at me, but she swiftly turned to the noblewoman to inquire about her fall. After chatting with the noblewoman, she led her into a private room. Since his arrival, Emil hadn't looked at me even once. I then held Adam and cut through the crowd, but as I was distracted, I almost tripped. Luckily, someone managed to hold me by my waist. "Tha—" I didn't manage to finish my words seeing that it was Emil who helped me. He simply shot me a stony glare before expressionlessly following Kelly and her mother into the room. "You're quite the vixen, huh, Miss Lovelace!" Anita, who was behind him, mocked. I wordlessly pursed my lips. I was slightly perturbed, and at that moment, I couldn't be anymore reluctant to have anything to do with Emil. When we returned to our table, Mom softly ranted, "Why are rich people always so quick-tempered? Adam already apologized, but they still wouldn't let it go." I lowered my head and did not give an answer. When we were finished dining, it was already afternoon. After sending my parents off, I headed straight to Turing Corporation. There was translation work to be done in the afternoon, so I'd have to return. It didn't take a long time after I reached the company for Mom to call me, but since I was still in a meeting, I couldn't pick up her call, so I sent her a text before putting my phone on mute. The meeting was only finished after one hour. I took a look at my phone and saw a number of missed calls from Mom, so I hurriedly called back. The call got through, and thinking she had something urgent to relay, I hastily inquired, "Something happened at home, Mom?" Her voice was rather calm. There was even a trace of coldness in it. "Come home for a bit, Vivian." Although something was definitely off, I couldn't quite put it together. As I was about to ask, Mom had already hung up. Left oblivious to the situation, I could only return home at once. When I reached home, Dad was sitting on the couch with an alarming dull face, while Mom's eyes were severely red as if she had just cried. My heart skipped a beat. *Did they fight?* There was a stack of cash on the coffee table and a few bags of fruits. After changing into the home slippers, I put down

my handbag and sat beside Mom, giving her a hug. "Dad, Mom, did someone visit earlier?" Still with his glum face, Dad took a puff of cigarette and turned to me, heaving a sigh with a scowl, but he spoke not a word. All of a sudden, I assumed I must have done something wrong for them to behave this way. Holding my mother, I warily quizzed, "What happened, Mom?" *Thump!* Dad slammed his lighter on the glass coffee table, producing a blaring slap. Mom and I were utterly shocked. She nervously peered at Dad and advised, "Come on, Stephen! Talk nicely!" "Talk nicely?" Enraged, Dad uttered as his confused gaze fell upon me, "Vivian! Why don't you talk nicely to me and tell me? How did I raise you all these years to become such an ungrateful mistress?!" My heart palpitated. I couldn't be anymore anxious.