

# Love Amidst the Shadow

## Chapter 9

Sensing the strange atmosphere, she ran directly into Emil's arms and looked at Xavier, asking, "Xavier, what's the matter? You look a little angry." Xavier looked at her dotingly and replied, "I'm glad you know that I'm angry. What, are you expecting me not to get angry when you run into another man's arms the moment you come in?" His words caused Kelly to laugh charmingly. "Xavier, Emil is not any other man. He is my man." I wasn't stupid enough to torture myself by staying here and watching them flirt and joke around with each other. Just as I was about to leave, Kelly looked at me and asked, "Why are you here?" She looked a little puzzled and subconsciously looked at my stomach, then at the women sitting next to the other men in the room. In an instant, as though she had realized something, she frowned and looked at me. "You work here?" I shook my head. But before I could speak, Xavier looked at me strangely, then asked Kelly, "Do you know each other?" Kelly nodded. "We just met in the hospital yesterday. Anita accidentally bumped into her when she came out of the hospital after aborting her baby." Xavier's brows furrowed at the mention of abortion, but he said indifferently, "It's about the company. Johnny didn't handle things well." With a glance at Johnny, he ordered, "Escort Miss Lovelace downstairs and call a cab for her." Without waiting for Johnny to reply, I hurriedly cut in, "Thank you, President Turing, but it's all right." Then, before he could speak again, I immediately exited the room. After I got home and soothed Mom to sleep, I found myself unable to sleep as I lay on the bed. Glancing at the clock on the wall, I saw that it was eleven o'clock. *Emil should still be awake at this hour.* As I dialed his number, I felt an indescribable uneasiness in my heart. After the dial tone rang thrice, the call went through, and I could hear his low and restrained voice. "What is it?" I was taken aback for a moment before I said cautiously into the phone, "Thank you for tonight." If it weren't for him, Xavier might not have been interested in what I had to say. All of a sudden, a woman's soft voice came from the other end of the phone. "Emil, can you pass me my pajamas?" It was Kelly. I tightened my grip around the phone suddenly. My cheeks felt hot and painful as though I had been slapped in the face. "I'm hanging up!" Emil said, his voice a little impatient. Before I could reply, there was already a beeping sound from the other end of the phone. It went without saying that the two of them had moved in together. After turning off my phone, I stared at the ceiling. I felt as though there were millions of ants crawling all over my chest and drilling holes into my heart. The next day, after a sleepless night, Mom felt bad when she saw my dark eye circles and pushed me back to my room, saying, "I'll go visit Ady at the hospital later. You should catch your sleep. Don't torment yourself." Of course, I couldn't fall asleep. I clung to her and said, "Ady just finished his chemotherapy. If he finds out that I'm sleeping at home instead of visiting him, he'll definitely pester you." "But, you..." I knew Mom was worried that it would be too much for me. With a cheeky laugh, I interrupted her, "Mom, I'm only in my twenties. It's normal to stay up all night once in a while. It's not that big of a deal. Just let me go to the hospital with you." Unable to bear my nagging, Mom had no choice but to agree. At the

hospital, my younger brother, who had just finished chemotherapy and was transferred to the general ward, giggled with joy when he saw me arriving with Mom and hounded me. "Vivian, you haven't come to visit me for a long time. Am I going to be an uncle soon?" "Adam, don't be ridiculous!" Mom clicked her tongue, preventing him from spouting nonsense. I paused slightly and looked at Mom. Knowing what I was about to ask, Mom explained, "When you almost had a hemorrhage last time, he overheard Miss Turing's call. He's still young, so he doesn't know any better. He's just taking a wild guess." Adam was twelve this year and was at the age of curiosity. Seeing that Mom wouldn't let him ask questions, he became more excited instead. "Vivian, who is my brother-in-law? Have I met him?"