Master odells 551

Chapter 551

Sylvia and Christopher arrived at the entrance. After showing their invitation card, the butler guided them inside

They followed the butler along the pathway and went into a castle-like house.

Dinner was held in the main hall on the first floor. In the center of the ceiling of the spacious venue, there was a crystal chandelier that shed its glamorous light all across the hall.

After bringing them into the hall, the butler wore an apologetic smile and said, "Please make yourself at home. Due to our master's health, it might take him longer to come downstairs." Christopher politely answered, "It's totally fine. We understand."

The butler excused himself before he went to serve other guests.

Sylvia, Christopher, and the others sat down on one of the couches.

At the same time, there was a young woman in a sky blue dress and wearing beautiful makeup above the spiral stairs, watching them from afar. She was looking in Sylvia's direction with a sense of prying. Moments later, a white-haired elderly woman, who was covered in expensive jewelry, walked over to the young woman and asked, "Lily, why are you out here?" "Oh, it's nothing. I just came out for a walk." Madam Springsteen furrowed her brows and looked in the direction Lily was staring. She saw a group of people chatting on the couch. They were dressed commonly and probably were the artists the old man had invited. She restricted her disdainful gaze and was more perplexed than before. "Lily, what exactly are you looking at?" "Some irrelevant person." Lily then turned around and elegantly paced towards her room. As his ex-wife, Sylvia was indeed beautiful but commonly dressed, which was expected of someone without a powerful background.

Downstairs, after having a seat, Sylvia sensed that someone was eyeing her. She scanned around and saw groups of people chatting among themselves. She then looked up at the spiral stars but saw no one there.

"Am I overthinking? Sylvia put the thought aside and munched on some fruits and snacks while listening to Christopher's chat. She waited for quite some time and still did not see the host of the event anywhere Sensing the urge to use the tollet, she excused herself from Christopher and the others before heading to the washroom However, after she left the hall for the washroom, tumultuous noises came from inside the hall m ediately, the guests in the hall got up from their seats

The butler ran upstairs and helped Master Springsteen down the stairs. Together with him was Madam Springsteen and her two sons and daughters-in-law. Even her daughter and son-in law came out

The crowd at the entrance automatically moved aside and paved a path

Under the glamorous light, the man's towering figure appeared in the guests' eyes. His black custommade suit complemented his straight figure, and he seemed to exude a strong aura. Each step he took would further expand the path in between the crowd. The guests wanted to greet or talk to him, but they dared not make a noise. The quiet atmosphere was broken when Master Springsteen brought his family in front of the man

Master Springsteen smiled and said, "Master Carter, it's great to finally meet you in person."

Odell shook the man's hand. "You're too kind. I have heard a lot about you. You have seniority, so please just address me by my name." "Haha... Okay okay, let's go inside," Master Springsteen said with a delighted smile.

Odell nodded and walked by his side.

Madam Springsteen was on the other side of her husband, and her eyes were glued to Odell. The more she looked at him, the harder it was for her to suppress the urge to grin. At first, she thought that Ramona was exaggerating when she described Odell's appearance, but now she could verify that the man was even more handsome than described. His looks coupled with his capabilities made him the perfect man that was considered rare. Odell accepted Springsteen's hospitality and took a seat on the couch. He looked around and spotted Christopher and his group, but he did not see Sylvia anywhere.

She didn't come?'

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Odell was slightly disheartened. Master Springsteen and his family were just beside him, and they all sharply noticed the slight change of expression. Madam Springsteen asked, "Master Carter, is there anything that you are not happy with?" Odell conserved his emotions and said, "No, everything is great." He picked up the glass for a sip of alcohol.

Madam Springsteen shot a quick glance at Ramona who was sitting further away. Ramona smiled at her and signaled her not to be worried because it was just Odell's usual demeanor. Therefore, Madam Springsteen sighed a breath of relief.

Meanwhile, in the corridor that connected the hall and the bathroom, Sylvia came out after

relieving herself and saw the crowd surrounding Odell like fans cheering on their idol.

She stopped at once.

She did not expect Odell to attend this event, but considering the relationship between the Carters and the Springsteens, it was not that surprising for him to come. She stood there and waited for more and more people to surround Odell before she snuck back into the hall. She went back to Christopher's group and showed her back to Odell.

Christopher knew about her complicated relationship with Odell. He shot a complex gaze at her and asked in a small voice, "Sylvia, just follow me around. Don't worry." Sylvia smiled in appreciation. "Thank you, Mr. President." The atmosphere was lively. Some time into the event, Master Springsteen went to the center hall with the aid of the butler. The butler then said, "Everyone, may I have your attention?" His voice silenced the entire hall, and everyone shifted their attention onto Master Springsteen. Master Springsteen smiled and said in his gravelly voice, "First of all, thank all of you for coming. Let's have a toast first." He then raised the glass in his hand and everyone followed. Sylvia did the same as well and had a sip.

After the toast, Master Springsteen gave a short speech about how he wished to settle down in Westchester with his family once and for all, and he asked for everyone's warm welcome. Lastly, he said, "To express my gratitude, my granddaughter, Lily, will present everyone with a brief performance." His voice incited exciting discussions among the guests. "Lily Springsteen? I heard she's a famed pianist known for her talent. She even got global recognition!"

"I heard that every single one of her performances was sold out. It's even harder to get a ticket than to fly to the moon." "I guess we are in for a show tonight."

The crowd's anticipation was heightened. Then, the light from the crystal chandelier dimmed. A few seconds later, the spotlight shone on the spiral stairs, highlighting the young woman in the sky blue dress.

The young woman had silky long hair and beautiful makeup that complemented her delicate facial features. Both her countenance and demeanor screamed of elegance.

Almost all the other young men were captivated by her presence. Even Sylvia had an extra glance at her. Lily was smiling in a particular direction. She caressed her hand along the rails and elegantly walked down the stairs.

The hall was silenced by her beauty. All that could be heard was the clicking of her heels. The spotlight trailed her as she moved to the white piano located in the corner. She smiled at the crowd and then sat down before the piano. Her fingers elegantly perched on the black and white keys.

The quiet hall was soon graced by melodious music. She was skilled, and the song that she played captivated everyone's attention.

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However, Sylvia was a frequent listener of Thomas's piano-playing, and he had also played this song for her before. Be it the playing or the tune, Thomas felt a lot more natural compared to Lily, so Sylvia lost interest after a while. She picked up her plate of snacks and continued munching.

It was then that a tall figure appeared on her left.

Startled, Sylvia looked up at the figure, and before she could show any proper reaction, the figure sat down beside her.

The entire hall was dark, and the only spotlight was on Lily and her piano, so it took Sylvia quite a while to recognize the person beside her.

"Thomas?" she asked in a small voice.

"The one and only," he said. Sylvia was baffled by his arrival. "What brings you here?"

"Lily and I were classmates. She invited me here," he said.

Sylvia nodded in realization.

There were no more questions from her, and Thomas also quietly enjoyed the recital. He did not speak a word after he explained his arrival. After Lily finished playing the song, the crowd applauded. Lily stood

up and elegantly bowed at the applauding crowd while being highlighted by the spotlight. Then, Master Springsteen's voice sounded from the dark. He delightfully said, "The ball is starting soon, but before that, is there any young gentleman who would like to have a dance with my granddaughter?

"It might sound surprising, but my granddaughter has never gotten a boyfriend, and I wish that she will find her Mr. Right soon. So, would any young man like to give her a chance?"

"Grandfather?" Lily shyly shot a glance at her grandfather. Many young men among the crowd started murmuring and voicing their excitement. "It's my pleasure to be able to have a dance with Ms. Springstreen!" "Ms. Springteen's recital was melodious and I admire her talent!"

The young men among the crowd grew excited as every one of them wanted a chance to have a dance with Lily.

Lily stood quietly but a hint of disdain flashed deep in her eyes. She looked down on all the caper young men combined. She then had a glance at the butler behind her.

The butlet rated the inicrophone and said, "Thank you for your admiration of our Ms. Lily. veryone Lach and every young gentleman is outstanding in your own way, and it is difficult

to pick just one for the dance. "Here, I would like to suggest a little game: the spotlight will randomly move around, and when Ms. Lily says stop, the spotlight will pick the lucky gentleman for the dance."

"Great!"

"Yeah, I can go with that!"

The young men agreed to the little game. Someone then said, "This little game is fun and fair to all the young men here. It also won't put Ms. Springsteen in an awkward position."

The butler then asked Lily, "What do you think about the game, Ms. Lily?" Lily smiled politely and said, "I think it's a good idea. Thank you, Arthur." "You're too kind, my lady." The butler then turned to the crowd and said, "Without further ado, the game will begin in the count of three." The hall went quiet before the countdown.

Almost every young man looked at Lily in anticipation. The other guests were also interested in finding out who would be the lucky guy chosen to have the dance with Lily. Sylvia was sitting in the corner. It was the first time she had heard of the game, and it captured her attention. She tapped Thomas's shoulder and asked in a small voice, "Thomas, what do you think about Lily?"

She suddenly realized that Thomas was not a youngster anymore and that he was already at a suitable age to date. Thomas replied coldly, "I am not interested in her."

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Sylvia felt like cold water was just poured onto her. She pursed her lips and decided to abandon the question. The spotlight started moving. It spun randomly around the crowd for around ten seconds before Lily called for it to stop.

The spotlight froze immediately, capturing everyone's attention. When the crowd looked at where the spotlight shone on, a majority of them gasped in shock. Even Sylvia was surprised. The spotlight chose

Odell. The man elegantly sat on the couch with a glass of wine in his hand. As though he did not expect the attention, his brows frowned, and he looked slightly annoyed.

Voices then came from the quiet crowd.

"It's Master Carter?"

"That's right. Master Carter is perfect for Ms. Springsteen. It's like they are made for each other."

"Be it his looks or his capabilities, he is probably the best one out of the bunch!" "But I heard Master Carter used to be married and even has children." "So what? His status is more than fitting for Ms. Springsteen." Someone then mumbled, "Is this predetermined? Out of all the young guys here, Master Carter got chosen? The coincidence is uncanny." Yellow lights then came on. It was still not too bright in the hall but enough for the guests to see one another.

Master Springsteen then stood up with a giggle. Lily then walked over to her grandfather from the piano and curled her hands around his arm intimately. The other Springsteens and guests also stood up gradually.

Sylvia followed the crowd but was surrounded by people taller than her. She was unable to see what happened with Odell and Master Springsteen and could only hear them. Master Springsteen smiled and said, "Haha, I didn't expect the spotlight to choose you for the dance, Odell." He then turned to Lily and called her. "Lily." Lily maintained her elegant demeanor and flashed a smile at Odell. "Master Carter, I've heard a lot about you. I'm Lily."

Odell had a glance at her and answered, "Ms. Springsteen, you are skilled with the piano." "You're too land."

Madam Springsteen then said with a laugh, "Everyone is waiting for the first dance. Why don't you two save the chat for alter the dance?"

Ramona also went up to Odell and said "That's right. Odell, go have the dance with Ms. Springsteen."

Odell was quiet for two seconds before he extended his arm forward. Lily blushed as she put her hand on his. The crowd stepped back and gave them the floor. Sylvia was pushed to the side, and fortunately, she had Thomas blocking the moving crowd, or else, she would have been pressed against the wall. The floor then emptied out for the couple to have the first dance. Sylvia had a glance at Odell and Lily walking to the center. His figure was tall and straight as ever as he held Lily's hand to approach the center. Lily also looked glamorous and elegant under his lead. The two looked perfect for each other. Sylvia pursed her lips and watched coldly. Then, on her left, Christopher suggested, "Sylvia, why don't we go out and have a walk? The scenery outside is beautiful."

Sylvia knew he was being considerate. As a matter of fact, it really made her uncomfortable, but she had to acknowledge her divorce from Odell. After all, she also got the rights to her children.

Therefore, Odell dancing with another woman was none of her business anymore. Sylvia smiled at him and said, "I'm fine. Mr. President. You don't need to worry about me."

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When Christopher saw the forced smile on her face, he pursed his lips and decided to stay quiet.

Sylvia continued watching the dancing couple at the floor.

Odell and Lily were swaying romantically along with the soothing music.

Odell's towering figure looked elegant as he held Lily's hand around. Lily followed his lead. She tiptoed and spun elegantly from time to time, showing off not only her dancing skills but also her slender figure. The two of them really looked great with each other Sylvia simply watched in silence Thomas also watched them beside her, and he would observe her expression from time to time.

However, Sylvia was captivated by the dancing couple and did not notice Thomas's gaze. At the end of the music, the first dance ended.

The crowd applauded enthusiastically, and even Sylvia clapped a few times just to go along with the flow

As the applause subsided, Odell held Lily's hand as they walked off the dance floor It was then that the yellow lights went off, and the spotlight came back on to shine on the butler.

The butler smiled as he raised the microphone to his mouth. "Thank you for the first dance, Master Carter and Ms. Lily. May I ask for everyone's patience?

"To express our gratitude for everyone's attendance, Master Springsteen has prepared presents for everyone. Three big prizes have been prepared for the couple who get the first, the second, and the third dance

"Master Carter is already our first lucky winner. With that being said, let us continue with the spotlight game to choose our next lucky winners. When I call 'stop', the spotlight will shine on two people and they will have the second dance. The same process will repeat for the third couple

"All of the lucky winners will receive the prizes from Master Springsteen himself, so be prepared!"

The crowd was intrigued and aroused by the sudden announcement. Everyone started to Pather around the butler Only Sylvia, Thomas and several more remained still

Otell returned to his scat He released Lily's hand as soon as he stepped off the dance floor, and he had been sipping on his glass ever since he sat down.

Lily sat down bryde him and asked, "Master Carter, may I have a word with you?

xell took another nip"Speak"

He sounded cold and distant, which displeased Lily and made her furrow her brows. Considering Odell's status, Lily was forced to stomach her grievance. "I just came back to Westchester, and I would like to know if there are any fun places to visit. I wonder if you have the time to be my tour guide around the city. Maybe in a day or two?" "I don't have the time." Lily choked on the reaction she received. The crowd gathered at the butler's side went quiet before the spotlight picked its second winner: a middle-aged couple. The couple was rather well-known in Westchester. The butler then said, "Let us welcome Mr. and Mrs. Redhorn to give us the second dance of the

night."

The yellow lights went on again. The crowd dispersed and made space for Mr. and Mrs. Redhorn in the center. The two of them danced comfortably.

Lily had a quick glance at the couple before she shifted her attention back to Odell. She regained her polite smile and asked, "If you don't have the time, I won't insist, but can you enlighten me about some interesting places to visit?" "You can find them on the internet."

"I know I can, but those reviews are not accurate."

Odell sipped and ignored her completely. Lily stared at his perfect yet cold side face. She swallowed her grievance again and said, Master Carter, you're really not a talker, I see. Do you not like to smile as well?" Odell ignored her. She moved to his front and continued in a meek voice, "I bet your smile looks great."

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Odell frowned. He put his glass down and bolted up, which startled Lily. Master Springsteen had returned to his chamber due to his health reason, so only Madam Springsteen and the other family members were around. The moment he stood up, he caught the attention of the other members of the Springsteen family.

Odell turned to Madam Springsteen and said, "Madam, please excuse me as I need to attend to my work affairs." Madam Springsteen was stunned, and so was Lily. The expression on the young lady's face froze.

Before anyone could react properly, Odell was already walking toward the exit. It was then the lively crowd became quiet again as the second dance ended.

They were to pick the third and final lucky pair to have the third dance. All the lights went off, leaving only the spotlight on to pick its lucky pair.

A few seconds later, it stopped on the third pair of couple and the result shocked everyone.

Someone said out of surprise, "Who are they? I haven't seen them before." "Maybe they are the artists Master Springsteen invited."

The man who was striding toward the exit stopped, and turned to the highlighted couple. His towering figure was then petrified on the spot.

The third and final couple that the spotlight picked was none other than Sylvia and Thomas.

Sylvia did not expect to be picked even when she was standing in the corner. She even had a plate of snacks in her hand and munching half a piece of pie when the spotlight shone on her. She stared at the crowd blankly. Thomas was a lot calmer than she was. He helped put her plate on the table and wiped her mouth with a handkerchief

"Come on, don't keep everyone waiting," he said.

His fair and slender hand reached out to her.

Sylvia did not liave a choice. The game rule was determined by the Springsteen family, so it WAS inappropriate for her to decline the invitation in front of everyone

A few seconds later, she reluctantly put her hand on Thomas' hand and walked toward the dance floor with him

The romantic music sounded

Sylvia took a cerp breath to calm lierself downi.

Thomas held her hand with one hand and hugged her waist with the other. He whispered to her, "Calm down." Sylvia smiled. "I'll do my best." It was just a dance, and it would be over. She followed Thomas' lead and started dancing along to his pace. It had been a while since she moved her body to any rhythm. Her movements were a little stiff but Thomas was kind enough to slow down to her pace. There were a few hiccups here and there but they did not cascade into a huge embarrassment. While Sylvia wanted the dance to be over quickly, Ramona, sitting on the couch on the opposite side, grumbled, "Shameless." Madam Springsteen heard Ramona. She curiously asked, "What's the matter? Do you know this lady?" Ramona lowered her voice and continued, "She's Odell's ex-wife." Madam Springsteen was surprised by the revelation. She immediately shot a cautious glance at Lily.

Lily was also looking at the dancing couple but she was rather intrigued and amused. There was even a smile on her face. Madam Springsteen whispered, "She's no longer Master Carter's wife, so there's no problem for her to dance with another man. Why did you call her that?" Ramona sighed. She might not like the second son of the Carter family but Thomas was still her cousin's grandson. If others learned that Thomas was getting close to his ex-sister-in-law, it would be nothing short of embarrassing. Moreover, Thomas was a simple person, and a loner. Other than the few close relatives of the family, no one knew his identity. Ramona decided to spare Thomas, so she said, "I don't like her. Look at her, she looks like a shameless vixen."

Madam Springsteen had a glance at Sylvia. "She indeed stood out from the others." She, too, had the same feeling about Sylvia. Then, Odell's towering figure came back

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Madam Springsteen was surprised by his sudden return. She immediately smiled at him politely

Lily also turned to him. Ramona asked with a smile, "Odell, aren't you going back?" Odell sat down on a single couch and answered, "I figured I haven't received the prize from Master Springsteen."

He sounded cold, similar to his frosty look Ramona chuckled awkwardly. "Oh right, you were the first lucky winner of the night." Madam Springsteen shot a suggestive gaze at Lily.

The man sounded unhappy. Could it be that he was unhappy about his ex-wife dancing with another man? Lily stared at Odell with a complicated look. Odell started sipping on his glass of wine elegantly as he stared at the dancing couple with a frosty look

The music was at its conclusion

Sylvia spun two turns under Thomas' arm and precisely stopped her movements along with the music

The crowd applauded.

Sylvia and Thomas bowed at everyone and wanted to return to where they came from.

However, the butler came over and stopped them with a smile. "Sir, madam, please hold on for a moment. Since you two are the third lucky winner, please follow me for your prize."

Sylvia furrowed her brows. She felt like she was being watched. She had no interest in the prize whatsoever. All she wanted was to return to her corner.

Thomas nodded. "Alright." He lield Sylvia's hand and followed the butler to the side of the dance floor. The grand chandelier brightened up as soon as they left the dance floor. Romantic music sounded again, and it was a signal for the other couples to have their own dance of the night

It got more spacious outside the dance floor.

Sylvia and Thomas followed the butler to the side and saw Mr. and Mrs. Redhorn, plus Otell who was sitting on the couch with his legs crossed.

Ile12 shot a deep x«ze al Sylvia and Thomas

It wikill and Sylvia's firsi face to face meeting since their divoter

Tot come to con, Sylvierted his pare

However, knowing that she was no longer his wife and she was just friends with Thomas, there was nothing for her to be afraid of. She bit the bullet and looked away, showing Odell a frosty side face. Odell's gaze was glued to her. After she averted his gaze, he looked down toward her hand being held by Thomas. His gaze turned cold and he uncontrollably gripped his glass tighter. Even the veins on the back of his hand were showing

Thunk!

He put his glass down on the table and the sound that it released captured quite the attention. Both Madam Springsteen and Ramona were startled and neither of them dared to say a word. Lily shot a quick gaze at the butler. The butler immediately ordered the servants to bring over five gifts for the winners.

He then smiled at Sylvia, Thomas, and Mr. and Mrs. Redhorn. "These are the gifts my master prepared for you tonight. We hope that you'll like it." "Thank you, Master Springsteen." Mr. and Mrs. Redhor happily received the present. The butler then turned to Thomas and Sylvia. Sylvia smiled and said, "Thank you, Master Springsteen for your generosity." Just when she wanted to receive the gift, she realized Thomas was still holding her hand, Her brows subtly furrowed as she pulled her hand off and received the gift.

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Thomas had a subtle glance at her before he took his gift. The butler smiled at them after giving them their respective gifts. He then took the last box from the servant and went over to Odell with his back arched. He wanted to present the gift to Odell himself.

Sylvia had one glance at the direction and saw Odell's frosty gaze.

She looked away immediately and went back to the corner on the other side of the hall.

Thomas also followed her away.

Thud!

Odell suddenly bolted up. The butler was startled by the man's sudden reaction. He stepped back immediately and said in a small voice, "Master Carter, this is for you." Odell frustratedly frowned and said, "Give it to my grandaunt." He then walked toward the direction where Sylvia and Thomas went off. "Uh... Sir? But..." The butler awkwardly turned to Madam Springsteen and Lily, requesting further instructions Madam Springsteen reacted bitterly, and so was Lily. The young lady's face was smeared with displease and frostiness. The atmosphere went quiet for a few seconds before Madam Springsteen said with a sigh, Just bring it here." The butler then delivered the gift to Ramona, who was sitting beside Madam Springsteen. "This little vixen, she's still trying to tease Odell," Ramona resentfully cursed as she received the delicate box from the butler. Madam Springsteen's expression grew bitter. She said, "Ramona, please excuse me. I'm not feeling well." "I'll walk you to your room." Ramona offered. "It's fine. I can go up by myself." Madam Springsteen refused to talk to Ramona anymore and simply went toward the stairs.

Ramona knew Madam Springsteen was mad at herself, so she directed her grievance at Sylvia and cursed her deep in her heart.

The ball continued in a lively atmosphere. Sylvia shuttled through the crowd and returned to Christopher and the others. Thomas followed her

"Sylvia, Mr Carter, congratulations!" One of the people from the Art Association smiled and

congratulated them. He then stared at the boxes in their hands and asked, "Can we have a look at what gift Master Springsteen prepared for you two?" Sylvia generously opened the box Inside the box was a pen forged in gold with diamonds embedded around the cap. It looked extravagant. Christopher and the others were awestruck by the luxurious prize. Even Sylvia was surprised. As expected of the Springsteen family, generous as always. She put the lid back on after showing the others the gift. She then said to Christopher, "Mr. President, it's getting late. I have to go back to take care of my children. Please excuse me."

She noticed the unfriendly gaze from Odell and it grew uncomfortable for her. She did not wish to stay any longer, and it was best to avoid any kind of interaction with that man. Christopher straightforwardly said, "Okay, be careful." Sylvia turned around and saw Thomas. Before she could say a word, Thomas said, "I'm going back as well. Why don't I give you a ride?"

Sylvia smiled. "It's okay. I can go on my own."

She then headed toward the exit.

The night was dark and it was extremely cold outside. Before she even stepped outside the building, the freezing breeze gave her chills. She grabbed her jacket from the servant and put it on as she walked outside.

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There was quite a distance from the door to the inain gate. Both sides of the pathway were covered with plants of different heights. Many of the lamps were blocked, causing the pathway unusually dark

There was no one on the pathway at the moment and the chilly night breeze whirred in the air, making it extremely eerie to look at or to be on it.

Sylvia tightened her jacket and held her breath as she strode along the eerie pathway.

Just a few steps later, a long arm reached out to her from the dark and grabbed her arm. Sylvia was shocked but before she could scream, she was dragged into a familiar embrace. The man's strong and hurried breathing came from above her head.

Sylvia looked up and saw a handsome but frosty face.

The man stared at her with a sharp gaze.

Sylvia blinked twice before she tried to break free from the man's embrace but his long arm constricted her waist tightly, preventing her from breaking free. She shouted, "Odell, let go of me!" The man tightened his hug and pressed her against his chest Sylvia was forced to tiptoe. Her entire body was already leaning on him. She glared at him and shouted, "odell, stop this immediately! We've already divorced!"

"Is that why you go after another man?" His gruff voice sounded terrifying.

Sylvia argued, "I didn't! I just had a dance with Thomas, that's it! The spotlight chose us. We can't just decline and ruin the game rules, can we? It's disrespectful to the Springsteen family!" He pinched her face and bellowed, "Even so, you can't dance with him!" Sylvia's gaze shrunk but she regained her composure and argued, "You danced with Ms. Springsteen as well!" "There's nothing between us!"

"Well, there's nothing between me and Thomas as well!"

He frowned as she refused to back away. They confronted each other for a few seconds before he asked, "Then why are you two together?"

"I came here with President Dendro and the people from the Art Association! Thomas was invited by Ms. Springsteen and we just happened to run into each other! He and I are working in the Art Academy! We're close, but we're not what you think!" A quick thought later, she further explained, "Odell, he's your brother. Even if I longed for a inan's Touch, I'd sleep with any man but lim!"

He stared at her blushing face and narrowed his eyes. "Is that so!" "I don't care if you believe me or not." Sylvia already explained herself clearly and she refused to further tangle with the man. She pushed him and shouted, "Let go of me! I want to go home!" He pursed his lips in silence and stared at her. She furrowed her brows and continued, "Did you hear me? Let go of me!" He continued to stare at her face and his arm remained tight around her waist. Sylvia gasped and said, "If you don't let me go, I'll scream!" They might be quite far away from the hall but as long as she screamed her lungs out, someone would be able to hear her cry for help. Odell curled his lips as if he did not believe she would scream for help. Sylvia was frustrated but she decided to approach this matter with patience. She said, "Odell, I'm not one of your upper social circle people, and I'm not afraid of embarrassing myself. "You, on the other hand, if others see you harassing a woman in someone else's front yard, what would they think of you?" Odell chuckled at her strange confidence. "Do you think I care about what others think of me?" She was his ex-wife and even if they were already divorced, she was not allowed to see other men. She must only be his woman and if anyone had anything to say about him harassing her, he would rip their mouths off their faces.

Sylvia choked and flushed.

She widened her eyes and stared at him for around ten seconds before she took a deep breath and screamed, "HELP-"

Before she could utter the word "me", her lips were sealed.

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The man's strong scent of cologne assaulted her nose like a tsunami.

Sylvia tried pushing him away but he hugged her with both his arms. He hugged her so tightly that it cramped both her arms in between their chests. There was no space left for her to struggle.

The chilly breeze continued to whirr and the leaves of the trees and plants rustled.

Under the dim environment, the two of them stayed close together and showed no signs of separating for quite a while.

Further away, behind a robust tree, a tall figure saw the two of them. He stared at the intimate duo and saw how the man forced himself onto the woman. Both hands of the woman were cramped tightly and she could not break free at all.

He continued to stare with his frosty gaze.

Sometime later, as though the chilly breeze finally stopped, Odell let go of her.

Sylvia seized the chance and pushed him away. Odell was caught off guard and was pushed to a stagger.

Sylvia also took several steps backward.

She wiped her mouth as she screamed with her teary eyes, "Odell, you b*stard! You just can't keep your promise, can't you?"

She made it clear during the divorce and after a few months of separation, she almost forgot how he used to ravage her without her consent.

Now, he forced his lips onto hers and it upset her.

She then ran toward the gate after screaming at the man. The man stood where he was and his towering figure froze under the chilly weather.

His dark brows furrowed.

He was being impulsive but he did not regret it. Being separated for a few months now, there was not a day he did not think about her body and how he wished he could sleep with her again.

He was losing control over his lust and desire.

This was a warning. If she continued to have intimate interactions with Thomas, he would force himself onto her again.

Then, he strode toward the gate

lip on the second floor, there was a balcony that faced the main gate and Lily was there with a thick jacket over her shoulder

She watched as lell walked out of the gate. As she narrowed her eyes coldly, she grunted to verter her depression,

"Lily, it's cold outside. Stop standing out there and come on in." Madam Springsteen came out to the balcony and suggested her granddaughter go inside. "I don't feel cold at all. I want to stay here for a bit," she said in a frosty voice.

Madam Springsteen could tell that she was upset. She sighed and said, "Lily, Odell is being tasteless. It's not your problem. That woman is incomparable to you. All she had was that beautiful face of hers. Come on, listen to me and come inside. I'll find you a better man than

him."

Lily frowned. She believed no one in Westchester City could be better than Odell.

She remained quiet and simply went inside the room. Madam Springsteen sighed a breath of relief and followed the girl inside.

Sylvia went home without pause. Aunt Tonya and the two little ones already had dinner and they cleaned the table up beautifully Sylvia headed to their room and saw Isabel sitting in Aunt Tonya's arms while watching TV. The show was about a modern romance story. Aunt Tonya was dozing off but the girl was deeply captivated by the story. Her eyes widened and she never looked so concentrated before. Liam was beside the two of them, playing with a toy. Sylvia's frustration faded the moment she saw her kids. She curled her lips into a smile and knocked on the door. Isabel and Liam immediately turned to her and their eyes shone brightly.