

My Dreamy Old Husband

Chapter 71

Richard patted Kayla's shoulder, asking her to leave. "Let's go."

Kayla stared at Sophia fiercely before she yelled, "Just wait for it—this isn't over yet!"

With that, Kayla dashed out of the room hastily while Richard and Xyla left along with her.

Just as they reached the door, Richard suddenly turned around. He looked dearly at Sophia, who was busy tidying up her belongings. In a sincere voice, he said to her, "Sophia, it isn't necessary for you to do such a thing. You should know that we're to the point of no return."

As soon as he finished his sentence, Richard left while holding Xyla's hand in his.

Sophia had been busy tidying her stuff that had been scattered all over the place; she did not even take a glance at him. It was only until Richard had left when she finally cussed in silence. "Are you crazy?"

On the other hand, Nathan did not utter a single word. Nonetheless, he was clearly upset with the dull-looking expression he had put on.

Sophia gently touched his head as she comforted him. "Everything's alright now; I'm sure that they will be punished!"

Michael once told her that there were cameras everywhere in the barracks, including the female's dorms; there would be a female instructor monitoring the

situations at any given time. Therefore, they knew best about everything that happened in the barracks. Despite that, they never spread a single word about it since it was classified as a military training secret; the Fletchers were probably the only ones who knew about it.

For instance, the instructors were clearly aware of who had placed nails into Sophia's shoes, as well as who had hidden the necklace in Sophia's backpack.

However, everyone would not agree to installing surveillance cameras in the women's dormitories.

Regarding the matter of Sophia stealing the necklace, everyone seemed to have guessed what had actually taken place.

It was absolutely impossible for Nathan to steal Kayla's necklace, Sophia probably would not do so as well. After all, she was in control of the most important resource at the barracks—iced watermelon.

Even if the other companies were willing to offer her luxury watches and diamonds in exchange for her watermelon, she would not accept their offers. Thus, she would definitely not steal her necklace!

Thinking about the grudges between Sophia and the Harpers, it was not that hard to figure out what had actually happened.

Everyone was taking their own guesses, but none of them dared to point it out in public.

Nonetheless, Kayla was hoping to make an issue out of this matter in order to drive Sophia out of the barracks; she would definitely not give up easily. During their training drills at night, she had asked the drill instructor of the 23rd Company to punish Sophia regarding the necklace incident again.

As expected, the instructor refused to do so.

Kayla completely ignored Richard's dissuasion as she went over the company commander and brought up the matter directly to the battalion commanders.

The battalion commander pretended to investigate the matter and responded to Kayla's request. "We'll talk about it after the military training!"

Kayla nearly went mad. She became unreasonable and went straight to the regimental commanders!

She had been causing trouble since that night until the next day; Kayla had even skipped training that morning. She continued to annoy the regimental commander in hopes that he would punish Sophia. Nonetheless the regimental commander's answer was the same—he had asked her to wait until the military training ended.

As a result, Kayla was not able to achieve what she had wanted. Additionally, she was punished by the instructor and had to complete a 3000-meter running drill together with 200 sit-ups because she had been absent from training.

"She's the one who stole my necklace, so why is everyone taking sides with her?"

The commanders were passing the buck for the matter Kayla had brought up to them. She was even punished for it, which put a chip on her shoulder as she started to make a scene during training.

Sophia had been caught red-handed for stealing her necklace, but why wasn't anyone punishing her? On the contrary, she ended up being the one getting punished instead!

The morning session of military training was taking place at that moment. Everyone underwent training obediently except for Kayla, who kept yelling and crying at the instructor. "I'm not convinced! She was the one who had stolen the necklace, so why have you punished me?"

The drill instructor of the 23rd Company remained expressionless as he said, “It is the duty of a soldier to obey orders. You’ve only got two choices—it is either you follow as I say or leave!”

Kayla felt wronged and started weeping tearfully. She immediately turned into a shrew right on the spot. “I won’t run! It’s not my fault!”

Richard immediately urged her right after seeing Kayla’s erratic behavior. “Calm down, Kayla. Just follow the instructor’s orders and don’t fight back!”

He was someone who had gone through military training. Therefore, he knew the dark side of military training; he had taken the initiative to lead this team just to supervise Kayla. Richard knew without doubt that she had an extremely stubborn personality, and no one could stop her once she was strong-willed about doing something.

Kayla was not willing to accept the outcome. In order to set this all up, she had missed last night’s dinner and starved the entire night. She had to find someone to place the necklace in Sophia’s backpack, and even had to bribe a couple of students to become witnesses. She was initially confident that she would be able to drive Sophia out, but what had gone wrong?

Sophia was just an ordinary civilian; she did not have any background either. Why was everyone protecting her?

She didn’t even manage to get rid of her after having put nails in her shoes. She was a tough one to knock down indeed!

Richard kept on persuading her before he had finally gotten Kayla to start running her 3000-meter drill.

Everyone was training while they watched over Kayla as she ran around the synthetic-rubber sports track in circles. The weather was scorching hot because the sun was hanging in mid-air, and she started to totter as if she was on the verge of collapsing.

Contrarily, the 49th Company was under the shade. They were taking a break as they enjoyed the iced watermelons Sophia had offered them. At the same time, they watched as Kayla passed by right in front of them. Quite a number of them were pointing fingers at her before they started mocking at her. Kayla felt like she was running naked, and both her eyes reddened in an instant—especially when she had embarrassed herself in front of Sophia, who was just sitting there while enjoying her watermelon.

Sophia, I promise to ruin your reputation one day!

Kayla ruthlessly cursed Sophia in mind.

Sophia was eating her watermelon as she watched Kayla complete her rounds on the track expressionlessly. No one knew what she was pondering about.

All she wanted was to get a high score in military training. Don't blame her if you get in her way of achieving her goals!

Since Kayla was a young mistress, she lacked physical strength. All of a sudden, she dropped to the ground while running. Richard then hastily picked her up before sending her to the infirmary.

In the infirmary, Kayla had woken up to find herself on the receiving end of an intravenous drip. She laid down still and did not bother to budge an inch the whole day. She only wanted to go home and did not want to stay back at the barracks for a second longer.

However, if she left the barracks, she would lose a huge amount of credit.

Nonetheless, whenever she shut her eyes, she would see Sophia mocking her with a piece of watermelon in her hands. She was anxious to shred the latter into pieces!

At noon, Xyla came over to take care of Kayla during lunchtime.

She happened to see her best friend, Kayla, weeping in tears as she hugged her. “What went wrong? She was the one who stole my necklace, but why is everyone blaming me instead?”

Xyla did not know what the problem was as well. Although Kayla was not very smart, a plan as such was quite foolproof.

The parents of the students who had pointed Nathan out as the thief all worked under the company of the Harpers and the Huffs, which meant that those students would definitely obey Kayla’s orders. Moreover, no one else was there when the incident had taken place; their accusation of Sophia instructing Nathan to steal was definite.

Why had her plans not succeeded?

It must’ve been because of Kayla’s poor acting skills; the instructor must have seen her through. In that case, she deserved to be punished!

Xyla comforted Kayla and said, “Kayla, you have to stay strong. If you aren’t able to persist, you’ll embarrass yourself in front of everybody!”

Kayla sobbed twice, and her tears trickled down unwillingly. She became extremely upset whenever she recalled the smirk on Sophia’s face.

She had to get rid of her from the barracks at all costs!

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No matter what, Kayla could not give up. She still had to train in the barracks and receive a high score as well; she even wanted to see Sophia get driven out from the barracks!

Kayla decided to stay strong after she had made up her mind; she certainly did not want to make a fool out of herself in front of Sophia again.

Kayla held herself as she sat up straight before she followed Xyla back to their dormitory and got ready for that night's training.

However, she didn't think that she would run into a crowd of people when she arrived at her room. Commander Ford from the 49th Company, Sophia, the only child in the barracks—Nathan, and the girls from the 23rd Company were all present. Apart from these people, the company commander of the 23rd Company and Richard were also at the scene.

“What's going on?”

Kayla caught sight of Sophia as soon as she entered the room, and she gritted her teeth instantly.

Commander Ford was expressionless as he said, “My student, Nate, suspects that someone from the 23rd Company has stolen his watermelon. He requests to search the 23rd Company's dorm.”

Commander Ford must have been holding back his laughter when he said that. The edges of his lips could not help but twitch slightly as the commander glanced at Nathan, who was in deep hatred.

Nathan stood beside Commander Ford. He had an expressionless face while he stared coldly at the students from the 23rd Company.

Kayla was standing among the crowd when she mocked silently. "Did someone from the 23rd Company steal his watermelons? What a joke! As if we've never eaten watermelons before!"

Xyla and Kayla stayed in the same dorm. Their eyes twitched as soon as they saw Nathan entering their dorm, and it felt as though something bad was going to happen.

Sure enough, after getting permission from both commanders, Nathan easily made his way toward one of the beds. Then, he crouched down and crawled under the bed before retrieving a huge iced watermelon.

All the girls in the entire dorm were startled. Someone had really stolen his watermelon!

Moreover, wasn't it Kayla's bed?!

Nathan walked away with a cold-shoulder after he had found his watermelon.

Silence reigned through the entire dorm, and Kayla seemed to have finally realized what was going on. She had been punished for no particular reason, so she would've been at the track or in the infirmary the entire day. How could she possibly have stolen Nathan's watermelon?

She was being slandered!

An out-and-out slander!

Kayla immediately yelled, "I didn't do it! I did not steal his watermelon! They must have framed me!"

Unfortunately, no one was willing to listen to her explanation. The company commander of the 23rd Company had even looked at her with disappointment and said, “You’ve disappointed me! You’d even steal a watermelon!”

After he finished speaking, both of the company commanders left the room indifferently, and Sophia went along with them as well.

Even Richard was looking at Kayla with disappointment.

That night, the incident of Kayla stealing a watermelon had spread throughout the entire training ground. Not only was she despised by the crowd, she even received a moderate punishment for it. Although her punishment was not heavy, it would be a challenge for Kayla to even pass her military training.

How could a young mistress from the Harper Family steal a watermelon?!

No one believed it when the news first broke out. On the second day, everyone finally believed it when they saw the notice on the bulletin board at the training ground, informing students about the decision to punish Kayla from 23rd Company because of her watermelon theft.

After the incident, everyone took turns guessing what had happened to the Harpers; it was as though someone had been framing them on purpose. Previously, Kayla had been punished even though her necklace had been stolen. Just a day later, she was once again punished for stealing a watermelon.

Her reasons for getting punished were extremely embarrassing!

“I want to see the commanding general! I refuse to comply with this! I want to see the commanding general!”

“I didn’t steal anything! It was that bitch who framed me! I won’t accept it! I will never give up! I want to see the commanding general!”

Early the next morning, everyone watched as Kayla yelled wildly on the training ground. Nonetheless, it was not that easy for someone to see the commanding general. Everyone ignored her completely before two drill instructors put her into confinement for 24 hours.

Kayla had really gotten herself into huge trouble this time. Not only was she being punished for her previous mistakes, she was put into confinement after making a huge ruckus at the training ground. Now, it seemed like she couldn't even score 60 points.

As she watched Kayla suffer from her consequences, Sophia did not feel strange about it at all. As for Kayla, she probably did not think that her every action was being recorded by the surveillance cameras. Even if she was not punished now, her military training grades would reflect her behavior. In the end, she would not be able to pass as well.

The reason why she had been punished was not because of Nathan's stolen watermelon—it was because she had framed Nathan for stealing her necklace.

You get what you deserve for having offended the Fletchers in the barracks!

Richard did not expect Kayla to get into so much trouble even though he had personally supervised her. To one's surprise, Kayla still ended up getting confined!

During his class, someone had gotten confined after getting into a fight as well. Once they were punished or put in confinement, all their previous efforts were in vain; even if the person had scored full marks for his or her assessment afterward, it did not mean that they were able to pass.

Richard was very worried; he clearly knew the consequences for not passing military training. Kayla needed to work especially hard for the coming three to four years and had to rank top of her class every year. Moreover, she also had to achieve the national scholarship in order to make up for the points she had lost

during military training. Otherwise, she would have to repeat a year or start afresh in the next military training.

Richard pleaded with the company commanders, the battalion commanders and the regimental commander for mercy. Nonetheless, they did not even want to hear what he had to say.

His means of communication had been confiscated when he entered the barracks. Therefore, Richard was unable to contact his family members to pull a few strings, and could only rely on the connections he had inside the barracks.

There were a lot of students at Bayside University who were born into noble military families, and they had exceptional influence in the barracks.

Unfortunately, all these connections were useless here; Bayside University was known for having the strictest military training. Moreover, Joel himself was personally responsible for overseeing them this year.

Who was Joel? He was the eldest young master of the Fletcher Family, and the youngest senior colonel of the entire Cethos! He could make the whole Bayside City shiver in fear just by stomping his feet, let alone this tiny barrack.

The Fletcher Family was far from Richard's reach; wealthy families like his could only be thrown under the shade of the Four Great Families.

After running about for the entire day, his efforts had resulted in nothing. The application of punishment was issued by the company commanders; the battalion commanders were then in charge of submitting the application to the regimental commanders to check before it was reviewed and signed by the commanding general. Hence, it was nearly impossible for Joel to take back his words as he was firm with his decisions.

That night, Richard went over to the confinement room and delivered some food to Kayla. When he saw his sister, she was drenched in tears. There was only a chair and a dirty toilet in the room; there was a skylight situated high above as

the room was filled with an unusual scent. It was suffocating being in the room since one could not hear anything. As a man, Richard felt immensely uncomfortable staying in here, let alone Kayla—a young mistress who had never been through any hardships.

Richard handed over Kayla's dinner through a customized window. Kayla started wailing through the little window on the metal door as though she had finally met her savior. "Help me, Richard. I'm going crazy. I don't want to stay here! It's scary here! Quick, get me out of here!"

"I didn't steal anything, Richard. You've got to trust me—it was Sophia! That b*tch framed me!"

Richard was upset when he saw Kayla getting punished. He quickly comforted her, "It's alright. These 24 hours will end soon, and I believe in you!"

Kayla was crying and cursing at the same time. She was nearly at the verge of collapsing. "It's all because of her! She has always wanted to get me into trouble! It's all her fault!"

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Richard watched as his own sister got tortured in such a way, loosening his fists that were tightly clenched just moments ago. He did not expect Sophia to do something as cruel as this; she had stolen her necklace and even slandered Kayla for stealing Nathan's watermelon!

All of a sudden, a thought popped into Kayla's mind. She rubbed off the tears on her cheeks before she held onto Richard's hand tightly through the little window on the door.

"Richard, I know that b*tch still has feelings for you. Why don't you look for her and get her to plead the company commanders for mercy? If she admits that she slandered me, they will let me out. That would make up for my grades as well!"

"But..." Richard seemed hesitant. He wanted her to recede from the complaints, but would she agree to it though?

Noticing her brother's hesitant look on his face, Kayla hastily held onto his hands. "Richard, she's doing all of this just to attract your attention—she's even thinking about getting married to the Harpers. You only have to pretend to get back together with her. Eventually, she will listen to everything you say! She will listen to your orders!"

Getting back together with Sophia...

Richard hesitated for a bit. Even though he was dying to get back together with Sophia, he was currently in a relationship with Xyla and could not simply betray his girlfriend like that.

Kayla did not care about Xyla at all; she held onto Richard tightly as though she was holding on to her final hope. “You’d just have to pretend to promise her and get along with Sophia for some time; once the military training is over, you can dump her. Xyla is a kind and sensible person, so I’m sure she’ll give you her full support!”

Richard kept quiet for one minute before he finally agreed to it. “Alright, I’ll give it a try.”

Kayla turned her tears of sadness into tears of joy, looking as though she had finally found hope.

Didn’t Sophia cause so many troubles just to get her brother to change his mind about her? As long as Richard was willing to return to her side, she would become as humble as a dog and give Kayla the chance to do whatever she wanted!

Kayla believed that Sophia would soon admit everything she had done. By then, the commanders would release her as well.

It was nine o’clock at night when training finally ended. The dorms had a lights-out policy at 11 o’clock. Between those hours, everyone would rush to get showered and have their laundry done; some of the couples would even go for a tryst hand in hand.

Half of the girls were absent in their dorm rooms, for they would usually gather around in their own social circles right after washing up.

Sophia was getting ready to sleep after she had washed her face and rinsed her mouth. At that moment, someone informed her from outside that a person was waiting for her at the main entrance of the dorm. When she made her way out, she noticed Richard standing under one of the street lamps situated just outside their dorm. He was handsome and well-dressed in his military uniform, looking just like a scholar who had joined the army. His gentle-looking eyebrows reflected his unchanged gentleness and affection from Sophia’s memories.

“Sophia, can we go for a walk together?”

Richard put on a pleasant smile as he sincerely invited Sophia out. He was completely prepared to get rejected, but little did he think that Sophia would accept his invitation.

“Alright, give me a minute. Let me go back and have my shoes changed.”
Sophia, who was wearing slippers, quickly ran back to her dorm room.

Richard was slightly startled as he stared at her from the back; it seemed like he had caught sight of her anticipation. It looked like she had probably guessed his reason for coming over today, so she must be really happy about it, right?

She was no longer the kind and simple Sophia she used to be. Now, she had become scheming and cynical. In order to get back together with Richard, she had even done things to hurt Kayla...

Nonetheless, why did he feel his heart throbbing the moment he saw her?

It was especially her hearty smile; Sophia’s smile looked just the same as he pictured in his mind. She was the girl who stood under the shades of the tree with a simple and pleasant smile. The reason why she had done everything she did was just to get back together with him. What a stubborn girl she was!

Then, what about Xyla?

While Sophia was getting changed, Richard pondered about it as he stared at the street lamp.

Soon, Sophia returned not long after. She had changed into a pair of shoes, and there was a little doll in her arms.

Nathan seemed to be upset about it, and he stared coldly at Richard.

Before coming to the barracks, Michael had urged him to be aware of whoever got close to Sophia. If anyone were to make a move, Michael had even instructed Nathan to take matters into his own hands.

Although Nathan felt like Michael—the man who Sophia was married to—was a violent man, the unusual person standing in front of his eyes looked even worse than Michael!

Richard did not expect Sophia to bring the kid along; he was slightly astonished by it. On the other hand, Sophia was very happy as she held on to Nathan's hand. "Good boy. We're going outside for a breath of fresh air—let's look at the beautiful scenery and feed the mosquitoes."

Nathan did not say a word, but his right hand held onto Sophia while his left hand grabbed onto the little frog toy that Sophia had won for him at a funfair. He pinched it and the frog made a squeaking noise which was harsh on the ears.

The three of them walked out from the dorm area. The barrack was huge, and a bunch of students would come out to take a breath of fresh air at night. Apart from that, they would play basketball on the training grounds while couples would be spending time alone under the shades of the trees. Hence, there was not anything special about the two of them walking together.

The scenery in the barrack was not that bad; there was a man-made pond, and the three of them were circling round it.

Nathan had purposely stood between Sophia and Richard.

Richard organized his speech before he started speaking to Sophia in a cool and bright manner, "This place looks just like our high school—it had the same man-made pond as well. I remember that we would always learn new vocabularies by heart every morning near the pond back then; I would stand on one side while you stood on the other. We wouldn't disturb each other, but I could always see you whenever I raised my head..."

Sophia had indulged herself in their past memories as well. “You’re right. All of it seems like it was just yesterday,” she said.

Unfortunately, it was all in the past now. She no longer had feelings for Richard as she stood beside him at that moment. In fact, she wanted to laugh upon thinking about it.

The atmosphere was filled with affection when Nathan immediately squeezed his little frog upon realizing it. A huge squeaking sound broke through the subtle atmosphere, ruining the moment for Richard.

Richard stood by the pond and looked at the clear reflection of the full moon on the surface of it. He suddenly realized that it was mid-autumn day, and the round moon in the sky made him think back to the mid-autumn day two years ago. He then subconsciously put on a smile and asked, “Do you remember what happened two years ago? I brought you to the Snow Garden on my bicycle to have some mooncakes. The taste of it was...”

“Squeak!” Nathan squeezed his little frog toy once.

Richard, who had been interrupted, continued saying, “I liked the sweet ones but you preferred...”

“Squeak!” Nathan squeezed his little frog toy discontentedly once again. He raised his head to look at Richard, who was about to say something again. He quickly squeezed his frog toy consecutively. “Squeak! Squeak! Squeak!”

Sophia touched Nathan on his head and asked, “What’s the matter, Nate?”

Nathan put on a straight face. “I want to eat a popsicle.”

Sophia replied, “Okay. Lucky for you, I still have a few bucks in my pocket. Let’s go have some popsicles!”

As soon as she finished her sentence, Sophia immediately left along with Nathan. Richard quickly caught up to them. "Sophia, I..."

Sophia politely interrupted her. "I'm sorry, senior. I'm going to get Nate some popsicles. You can take a walk around here yourself!"

With that, Sophia ignored whatever expression Richard had on his face before she brought Nathan to the military service center.

After buying two popsicles, Sophia and Nathan each had a popsicle dangling from their mouths as they continued to walk around the place. Sophia found a stone stool and took a seat when the both of them arrived at a quiet corner. After they were done with the popsicles, Sophia touched Nathan on the head and said, "Oh Nate, why are you so cute? Come here, let me kiss you."

Nathan refused to let her kiss him. He turned away to avoid Sophia's affectionate attack, but Sophia insisted on lifting him up for a kiss. The both of them were messing around when a deep voice was suddenly heard coming from the dark. "Chica!"

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The sound was as loud as thunder, making Sophia jump reflexively. She had almost lost her soul!

It was Michael's voice!

That pervert was the only person in the world who would give her such an erotic name!

Sophia looked around in fright. There were quite a lot of people nearby, but none of them seemed to be calling her. Furthermore, it was impossible for Michael to show up here since he was supposed to be working on the other side of the globe at the moment.

She sat down and tapped her head. "I must be too tired; I'm starting to hallucinate."

However, Nathan seemed to have noticed something and stared at a small alley nearby.

The yellow, dim light cast a shadow in the alley, and a man dressed in an army uniform emerged slowly from it. His figure was stretched in the light; since the brim of his cap had blocked away the light, it was hard to see his face clearly. Nonetheless, one could tell that he had handsome facial features.

Under the combination of the moonlight and the streetlight, his high nose bridge cast a long shadow and created a silhouette out of a fantasy world. It seemed like he came from another world and had broken through different dimensions, looking mysterious yet cold at the same time.

Even without looking at his face, one could tell that this person was definitely the best of the best!

Sophia hid behind the bushes and peaked at him, wanting to know who this man was. Judging from his attire, he was wearing the same uniform as the students; a drill instructor wouldn't wear that. Unless, was there such an exquisite man among the students?

There were several thousand new students this year. Sophia didn't know every single one of them, but with a casual glance across the training field, there were not many who could present that vibe.

Just by looking at the way he walked, he had an aura that was different from the other students. If there was really anyone who dressed up that way, Sophia would have noticed it at first glance.

The man walked toward her direction, and the sound of his steady footsteps seemed to suggest that he was extraordinary. Stopping not far away from Sophia, his face was hidden in the shadows as his cap was blocking the moonlight and the streetlight.

Sophia stretched her neck to look at him; she noticed there was a mysterious and a seductive smile on the man's lips, and the pair of eyes hidden in the dark were projecting light rays directly on her.

The man paused for two seconds and continued to walk forward with a clear goal, which was toward Sophia's direction.

Sophia, who was hiding behind the bushes, didn't move. She stayed where she was in hopes of finding out who that man was.

He's close! He's close!

In the blink of an eye, the man was already less than a few meters away from her. His huge body blocked the light from the street lamp that was nearby, forming a shadow on Sophia's face.

She was stunned as she raised her head and saw his face that was slowly appearing under the moonlight. The impassive expression on his face added a hint of solemnness and his eyes gleamed like an obsidian before he looked at her with a smile.

"Hubby!" Sophia was dumbstruck as she swallowed the words 'pervert' just in time.

It's really Michael!

He's actually here at the camp!

Sophia thought that she had mistaken him for someone else. She rubbed her eyes, but Michael was still there, looking exactly like the man on her marriage certificate.

She pushed Nathan's shoulder lightly and stared at Michael in disbelief. "Son, I think I'm looking at your dad! Am I hallucinating?"

Nathan raised his head and looked at the man who had travelled through night and day. He pouted his lips and didn't seem to be surprised at all; thinking his surname was Fletcher as well, there was nothing unusual about his father showing up in the barracks at all.

In order to avoid seeing their affection later on, Nathan turned around and ran off.

Suddenly, there was only Michael and Sophia left.

Michael was smiling as he took two steps forward and hugged Sophia. He gave her a kiss on the lips so strong that he almost bit her. Then, he asked, "Are you surprised? Was it unexpected?"

Sophia was finally certain that he was Michael. Since his appearance was completely out of her expectations, she was startled more than she was surprised.

She forced a smile. “S-Surprised.”

What is he doing here at the camp? Wait a minute—how did he manage to get in? This old guy, shouldn't he be working abroad right now?!

Sophia had a lot of questions, but Michael did not give her the chance to speak. Suddenly, he picked her up and carried her into the pavilion, insisting on kissing her.

Sophia was almost breathless when he kissed her vigorously, so she could only pretend to be shy and resisted him stubbornly.

“Hubby, don't...”

Michael had only been away from her for a short time, but he seemed to have missed her more than he thought he would. Although he could see her through the surveillance cameras everyday and watched her every single move, it was still only a surveillance video at the end of the day; the more he watched it, the harder it was for him to control his strong urge of wanting to see her.

It seemed weird; it was as if she was slowly becoming a part of his body. If he did not see her for a day, he would feel uncomfortable. He frantically wanted to feel her breath; he wanted to touch her warm body; and he wanted to listen to her talk, even if it was only several notes of her voice.

Michael hugged Sophia's small and soft body. The unique scent of the young lady wafted into his nose like a drug, seducing him to the point where he couldn't control himself. His huge palm glided across the curve of her body, and his warm breath landed on her; he really wanted to f*ck her right away.

Although this was a military camp, it still wouldn't get in his way.

However, he knew that Sophia wasn't ready at that moment, so he had to wait until the day his 'chica' was ready to accept him.

Sophia continued to get kissed until she was in a daze, yet Michael had no intention of letting her go. He started to touch Sophia all over her body; she was hot and flushed as he pinned her down on his lap. The two were tightly enclasped with one another, and it was as if her whole world was surrounded by his strong aura to the point where even her breathing was derived.

"Hubby..."

All of her words and breath were once again stripped away by Michael.

Michael buried his head between her neck. As he slowly unzipped her military uniform, he planted a hot kiss on her snow-white chest; it was as if he wanted his scent to stay on this appealing young body forever and drive those who had inappropriate desires away from her. He wanted to use this method to prove his ownership over Sophia aggressively.

As the couple hid in the pavilion and continued to show their affection for one another, a figure dressed in a military uniform stood by the shade of the trees, feeling exasperated.

Xyla looked at the two people in the pavilion coldly, and her anger had already burnt through her sanity and dignity.

In the past, Richard and Xyla would go out for a 30-minute walk every night after military training, getting into a lovers' prattle before going back.

However, when she went to look for Richard today, she was told that he had already left the room. She felt extremely uneasy, so she went to the 49th Company and asked about his whereabouts. As it turned out, Richard had indeed gone to look for Sophia, and they even came out for a tryst behind her back!

What a hungry douchebag and b*tch!

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Despite being a distance away from them, the poor lighting, and the fact that she couldn't hear what the two were saying, Xyla knew that they were Sophia and Richard! Indeed, how could Sophia possibly let Richard go that easily?! After everything she's done, she's managed to attract Richard's attention!

In order to save Kayla, it seemed like Richard had indeed gone to make peace with Sophia.

They're back together now, so what am I? Am I the third wheel?

Flames of fury burned in Xyla's eyes. Ever since she was a young girl, she had always gotten everything she wanted—including men! Richard was the man she had her eyes on, so no one could even dream about taking him away!

Sophia, do you think you can use this method to snatch my Richard away?!

Impossible! I was able to snatch him away back then, so I'll be able to do it again now!

Xyla threw away the pulpy Wisteria flower that was crushed in her hand. With that, she turned around and disappeared into the dark quietly.

At the pavilion, Sophia was finally released out of Michael's embrace. Her chest was flushed but slightly cold at the same time. While she was still in Michael's arms, her body stiffened as she leaned on his shoulder and panted slightly. "Hubby, this is the military camp. How did you manage to get in?"

Michael held her hand and caressed it gently, feeling that it was rougher than he imagined it to be. For the sake of getting a high score, she had indeed suffered quite a bit.

He kissed her face indiscriminately and whispered in her ear. "I jumped over the wall."

Sophia chuckled and didn't ask again. He is one of the Fletchers, so how else would he be able to get in? He'd just have to swipe his card and walk in!

Michael patted her shoulder and was surprisingly gentle when he said, "Don't put too much pressure on yourself. Your grades are very good now, and as long as you don't make any huge mistakes, getting a high score shouldn't be a problem."

Sophia nodded. She didn't ask how Michael found out about her scores in the military.

The wind was gentle and it was cloudless tonight. The moon was shining bright in the clear night sky, as if it was casting a faint layer of silver frosts on the ground. However, Sophia was not happy at all when she gazed at the beautiful night sky.

Tomorrow is going to be another hot day!

Sophia leaned on Michael's shoulder and looked weakly at the calm and clear sky. Suddenly, she felt that his shoulder was rather firm, and she could rest on it for a moment.

Sophia was no longer the naive, young lady that she used to be. She had gone through everything her peers wouldn't have expected, so she was already at peace with herself.

She had once fallen deeply in love with Richard, but in the end, he pushed her away without any sorrow.

If she regarded Michael as the person whom she could rely on for the rest of her life, who would be able to make sure that he wouldn't push her away in the future too?

Relying on myself is the right way!

After an entire day of training, Sophia was feeling tired already as she was overwhelmed with sleepiness. Her eyelids were drooping, and everything Michael said to her became blurry; she was so tired that all of her senses were shut down.

Michael wanted to talk to Sophia and catch up with her. However, before he could even get two sentences out, she started to yawn already.

He watched as she was nodding off. Her whole body was leaning in his arms, sleeping soundly like a kitten.

Michael held her up straight so she could lean on his shoulder. He let her sleep quietly and looked at her as she slept. She looked really calm and as beautiful as a painting, but he still liked the noisy Sophia more.

He looked at her, and the light in his eyes seemed to fade away gradually...

Sophia almost forgot how she had made her way to the room. When she woke up the next day, Michael was already gone. She had been sleeping on the infirmary bed for the whole night in an air-conditioned room. Strangely enough, it didn't seem like Michael had touched her. Was it because she was in military camp, so it was hard for him to do whatever he wanted?

Juliette had brought her breakfast as she asked in a concerned tone, "How's your fever, Sophia? Nate said you had a high fever all of a sudden last night, so you've been receiving an intravenous infusion in the infirmary. I was so worried about you."

A high fever and an intravenous infusion?

She touched her head. Clearly, there was no fever nor any pain. Did she have a high fever last night to the point of hallucinating Michael?

She glanced toward the bedside and noticed there was a plastic bag of her favourite snacks. The convenient store in the barracks only sold some daily necessities; and other than some popsicles, there was nothing else. It was obvious that the snacks weren't from the barracks.

When she opened the plastic bag, she saw a handwritten note that said, 'There is more in the fridge. Nate will show you where it is.'

The writing was bold and sturdy, looking as if they were standing straight like a soldier. Sophia looked at the note and after a three-second pause, she realized that it had been written by Michael.

Her lips curled up in a smile.

However, she immediately restrained herself.

Juliette seemed to have discovered something huge as she smiled wickedly. "This is from your boyfriend!"

She sounded confident.

Sophia looked at the bag of snacks and felt nothing but warmth.

My boyfriend?

"I guess so!"

That's my husband!

Juliette looked envious. “It must be nice having a boyfriend who would stay with you all night and not return to the dormitory. He even got you snacks! It is almost impossible to find any snacks here in the barracks!”

No wonder there were rumors about Richard not returning to the dormitory last night. Turns out he was here with Sophia the entire time!

Sophia shared some of her snacks with Juliette as she reminded her, “Don’t tell anybody about this; they might get upset about it.”

Everybody else wasn’t able to enjoy the snacks as she ate it alone. If anybody else found out about it, they definitely wouldn’t be happy about it; they might tell her off, which would even result in a fall out should the commander start an investigation.

Therefore, it would be best if only the two of them knew about it.

Juliette nodded and promised, “I swear I won’t tell.”

After all, Xyla is still Richard’s girlfriend in public. The fact that Sophia secretly got back together with Richard and had even spent the whole night together means that she is the mistress...

Therefore, it’d be better if fewer people knew about the matter.

The two reached a ‘consensus’ and happily shared the snacks.

Sophia returned to the dormitory and simply washed up as she prepared herself for a new day of training. Yesterday, she fell asleep in Michael’s arms in a daze; Michael had probably carried her directly to the infirmary so she could sleep there. If he was to carry her back to the dormitory, it would be too obvious.

Fortunately, Nathan came back to report in time and the infirmary gave her a medical certificate. This way, her scores would not be deducted for not returning to the dormitory at night.

While she washed up, Juliette sneaked to a remote corner in the barracks. There was someone waiting for her already.

Juliette was fearful when she saw the person. She lowered her head and reported timidly, "I've asked her earlier. She admitted herself that she had indeed been with Zane, and they stayed at the infirmary the whole night. Zane even got her a lot of snacks that are not allowed in the camp."