

NIGHT OF DESTINY (ANASTASIA TILLMAN)

Chapter 2621

Zacharias took Shirley's hand. "Let's go. Let's enjoy ourselves over the next three days."

Shirley followed him into the resort. A group of servants were welcoming them, giving them presents

and flowers. Shirley took the flowers. A steward said, "Sir, madam, please take a break on the second

floor. We shall serve afternoon tea shortly."

Shirley was stunned. Madam? Do these people not know the relationship we share? Do they think I'm

his wife?

Zacharias held his laughter in. He put an arm around Shirley's shoulder and said, "Let's head to the

second floor then, madam."

Shirley pursed her lips, holding her laughter in as Zacharias took her to the second floor. Right after

they came to the landing, she gave Zacharias a questioning look.

Zacharias chuckled. "Don't you like how they address you?"

Shirley loved it, but she still wasn't his wife, so she felt nervous being addressed that way. "I do. Shirley

smiled. She then convinced herself, "It's not like anyone else is going to hear that here. I'll be your wife,

then."

Zacharias smiled. "This could be a trial run for our marriage, then."

Shirley thought it was sweet. We'll see how things go. I can tell my folks we're dating once we get back

home. We don't have to be worried about how the public will see us.

Shirley and Zacharias took their seats in the lounge on the second floor. Shirley was tired and hungry

from the trip here, for it had taken them nearly three hours.

A moment later, the steward led a group of servants over to them. The servants were holding exquisite

platters, and the food was exquisite. This was where Flor's royalty's guests were served, so everything

felt regal.

Once the servants had taken their leave, Shirley picked up a nice piece of toast and took a bite. Her

eyes lit up. "Oh, this is nice."

Zacharias hadn't taken his food, but when Shirley said the toast was nice, he took her wrist and fed

himself with her toast. He bit on the spot she'd taken a bite out of. "It's nice," he praised.

Shirley smiled at him. "You just love taking my food."

"Yeah. It tastes better after you have a bite." Zacharias cocked an eyebrow. she felt sweeter than the

dessert before her.

After teatime, Shirley wanted to stroll around the rose garden. The place was gorgeous; even a little

time in the garden could cheer her up. Zacharias went with her. Shirley walked ahead of him, staring

around. Her hair was untied, and it billowed in the wind. Even her profile stunned Zacharias.

The roses were gorgeous, but to Zacharias, Shirley was more captivating still. He only had eyes for her

and nothing else.

Shirley felt his gaze focused on her, and her heart started to race. She turned around, looking at him.

He was in a suit, his shoulders were broad, his hair was slick, and his features were sculpted and regal.

Shirley looked around. Alright, there's no one here. She grinned, approaching Zacharias before holding

his shoulder. Zacharias put an arm around her waist and pulled her into his embrace. Then, Shirley kissed him.

A surge of warmth, burning for Zacharias, coursed through Shirley's veins. Shyly, she leaned against

Zacharias' chest and listened to the beat of his heart.

"It's cold out here. Let's go inside." Zacharias took her back into the residence.

Shirley followed him, but a servant was leading them. This place was huge, and the servant took them

to the master bedroom. When Shirley saw her luggage inside, she blinked and looked at Zacharias.

Quietly, she asked, "They can't be having us share a room, can they?"

Chapter 2622

Zacharias smiled. "A couple always share a room, don't they?" "But we're not a real couple!" Shirley

protested quietly.

"Then we'll become one," replied Zacharias seriously. Quietly, Shirley requested, "Can't you ask them

to free up two rooms for us?" Zacharias answered hoarsely, "No. They're going to tell everyone we're

not on great terms." "They won't." "Just deal with it and share a room with me for a couple of nights."

Zacharias wouldn't help her.

Speechless, Shirley bit her lip. She couldn't exactly say if she was looking forward to this, but she

wasn't insisting on getting another room.

They had a candlelit dinner that night. There were only two of them, but they were served with more

than twenty dishes. They weren't big enough to fill the couple, but they tasted good.

Shirley had a nice time. After dinner, she went through the art gallery and jewelry exhibit to wash her

food down. At nine, she came to the master bedroom. She saw a pink, revealing nightgown on the hanger beside the bed and a gray pair of men's pajamas draped beside it. Shirley stared at the nightgown, stunned. Zacharias crossed his arms, staring at her challengingly. "I challenge you to wear that nightgown." *Challenge accepted. After all, I have a nice body." Shirley would not refuse a challenge, and she was easily riled up. Zacharias leaned down. "Wear it for me tonight." Shirley regretted taking on the challenge and tried to find an excuse. "It's pretty chilly tonight, though." "I'll make sure the AC is warm enough." Zacharias made sure she couldn't weasel her way out.

Shirley had no more excuses. She stared at the nightgown again. No woman can resist this. It's gorgeous. I guess I'll just wear it for him. We're already here anyway, and we're sharing a room now.

There's nothing I can't do now.

"I have some work to do. You do whatever you want. Zacharias led her to the couch.

Shirley had nothing to do, so she watched as Zacharias took his laptop out, put it on the table, and stared at the screen. He typed away on the keyboard, sliding on his mousepad. His hands were beautiful. Ah, men are really hot when they work. Zacharias proves just that. Also, he has no idea how hot he is. He never cares about his looks, but that's why men like them are more charming.

Shirley looked at the time, deciding not to disturb him. When she picked up her phone, she noticed a text from her mother asking if she was having fun. Shirley put her phone on silent mode and chatted

with her mother.

The clock struck ten. Zacharias was done with work, and he closed his laptop.

He then asked Shirley, "Are you using the bathroom first, or should I go first instead?" Shirley looked at

him. "Go ahead." "I challenge you to come in with me." Zacharias smiled.

"No." Shirley didn't fall for it this time. She realized she had to think every time before she answered

Zacharias.

Zacharias laughed and got up for a shower. Shirley couldn't even pretend to watch the news. She was

distracted by the sloshing of the water in the bathroom, and she got nervous. She stared at the bed that

looked incredibly inviting. I have to share that bed with Zacharias tonight. Can I even fall asleep?

Shirley became nervous upon thinking about that.

She looked at the couch. Hey, I can sleep on the couch. If worse comes to worst, I'll do that.

She was engrossed in her thoughts for a while, and the bathroom door creaked open. Zacharias didn't

take his pajamas with him. He came out wearing nothing but a towel around his lower body, revealing

his muscular build for Shirley's enjoyment.

Chapter 2623

Shirley looked at Zacharias and felt her cheeks burning up. I wonder if I can even sleep while in his

arms.

"Get showered. I'll be waiting in bed," said Zacharias calmly.

Shirley got up and took the nightgown. She quickly went into the bathroom, too abashed to meet

Zacharias' eyes. After showering, Shirley changed into the nightgown and stood before the mirror. She

heaved a sigh. Even Shirley had to say she looked hot, let alone everyone else.

Her hair tumbled down her shoulders, fluffy like a cat and sensual like a succubus. Her cheeks were

flushed from the shower, and her eyes were glistening. She bit her lip and took a deep breath before

she opened the door.

Shirley thought Zacharias was already in the bed and probably under the blanket, too, but she was

shocked to see him leaning against the wall outside the bathroom. He had worn his gray pajamas, and

his belt was loosely tied. His chest was revealed for Shirley to see, obviously trying to flirt with her.

Zacharias was smiling at her, a knowing look twinkling in his eyes. Meanwhile, Shirley was starting to

breathe faster. Many women would fall for Zacharias without him even trying to flirt. "We..." Shirley tried

to say something.

Zacharias pulled her into his embrace. Shirley felt her chin getting grabbed, and Zacharias leaned

down for a kiss. He tightened his hold on her, and the silk pajamas they were wearing weren't doing

much. They were almost skin-to-skin.

Shirley's heart was racing, and she couldn't hold back anymore. Zacharias pulled her into a world of

lust. No matter what happened here, nothing could go wrong. Shirley had long fallen for Zacharias

unknowingly.

"I want you, Shirley." Zacharias' breath slithered down Shirley's neck. He pulled away from the woman

and looked at her.

When Shirley raised her head, she was met with Zacharias' gaze. It was a gaze filled with desire that

had been held back for too long. Nervously, Shirley gulped.

She couldn't say no to his face. Instead, she buried her head in his chest and nodded. "Okay."

Zacharias let out a heavy rush of air. He held Shirley's chin and stopped her from moving away, and he

made her look at him.

When Shirley saw his eyes again, her heart nearly jumped out of her chest. She could feel Zacharias'

desire for her, and he bent down for a kiss.

Part of the reason Zacharias lost control of his lust was Shirley herself, but the other part was her

nightgown.

"Hold on, hold on." Shirley was about to let everything loose too, but she held onto the last sliver of her

sanity and pushed Zacharias away, panting.

Zacharias pressed his forehead against hers, his scorching breath burning Shirley's face. "You're going

to kill me here." "Um, do you have that?" Shirley looked at him. She didn't want to have a kid with him

for now, so they had to use condoms.

Zacharias narrowed his eyes. "Give me a moment. I'll tell someone to get it." Oh, so the whole resort's

going to know we're f*cking tonight? Shirley was embarrassed to let anyone find out, and she didn't

think Zacharias would ask someone to get the rubber.

Her face was a shade of crimson when Zacharias left. Five minutes later, he came back holding

something. He smiled at Shirley and approached her. Shirley saw him holding three condoms.

Chapter 2624

Shirley's face turned a deeper shade of magenta. He got three in one go? Can he even use them all?

“Can you even use them all? You got a lot there,” asked Shirley.

Zacharias felt underestimated. Frustrated, he pinned her down on the bed.

“You underestimate me,

Miss Lloyd.” Shirley looked at him. Oh no. I flipped his switch. I’m done for.

He’s going to use all three

condoms tonight to prove he can do it. This is my first time. Can I even take three times?

For once in Shirley’s life, she wanted to run away from a challenge, and she pushed Zacharias. “Um, I

think I still have something to do. Why don’t we sleep in different beds tonight?” No one would believe

that excuse, especially not Zacharias. She said yes just now, and now she’s going to back off? Nope, it

won’t be that easy. Zacharias leaned down. “Okay, I’ll just use one condom.”

He tore Shirley’s

nightgown away, and then he went down on her.

The night was ecstatic, but Shirley realized something by the end of it. Never trust Zacharias.

Zacharias went through all three condoms even though he said he would only use one. He took her for

a ride the whole night. He can really last.

It was ten in the morning when Shirley woke up. Her hair tumbled behind her shoulders. She had

become a woman, though she still had a bit of naivete left in her. She also had an air of maturity around

her too.

Zacharias was already working. He came into the room and saw Shirley still on the bed, groggy.

Feeling for her, he sat on the edge of the bed and ruffled Shirley’s unkempt hair. Shirley rubbed her

cheek on his arm like a kitten.

Disgruntled, she said, “Next time, keep your promises.” Smiling, Zacharias kissed Shirley’s forehead.

“No guarantees. You’re too gorgeous.” “You’re blaming me?” Shirley looked at him indignantly, but she felt pleased inside.

“No, this is my fault.” Zacharias smiled, his eyes filled with love. A smile curled Shirley’s lips as well.

Zacharias wanted to kiss her, but Shirley pushed him. “I haven’t brushed my teeth. Or washed my face.

No kissing.” “I don’t mind.” Zacharias’ eyes were twinkling with a smile.

Shirley felt sheepish. She got out of bed and, after being reminded of something, pulled the blanket

back. “Um, what should we do about this?” She turned to look at Zacharias.

Zacharias looked at the patch of crimson on the sheets, feeling content. He pulled Shirley into his

embrace, promising, “I’ll take responsibility for this. For life.” Shirley knew why he was touched, but she

wasn’t very traditional. She gave her first time to him because she loved and trusted him, not because

she wanted to trap him for life. Patting Zacharias’ head, she said gently, “I did it willingly. Don’t feel

guilty about it.” She smiled. “Even if you dump me somewhere down the line, I won’t get mad at you.”

Zacharias froze for a moment before holding Shirley tightly. “You’re not dumping me after you took my

first time.” Shirley chuckled. “Are you feeling insecure, Zacharias?” Zacharias didn’t feel insecure. He

just thought Shirley was being too carefree.

She was like a gust of wind, impossible to tie down. He might lose her one day if he wasn’t paying

attention. If she ran into someone better than him, he was worried she might dump him. Zacharias

raised his head and imperiously said, “You’re never leaving me.” Shirley held his cheeks. Even more

imperiously, she said, "You're mine. Only mine." Zacharias nodded. "I am yours." Throughout the day, the couple enjoyed everything the resort had to offer-its scenery, food, and wine. Zacharias took her to the cellar so she could pick the wine herself. Then, he took her hand and strolled through the sea of flowers, watched the sunset, went on a ride, and sauntered on a quiet path in the woods.

Chapter 2625

They could totally be at ease here and enjoy their love. Shirley released her inner child and acted like her true self for once. The trip came to an end on the third day. They returned to town and took an evening flight back to their home country.

Shirley and Zacharias had confirmed their relationship on the way home. Even though Shirley was still

Zacharias' intern bodyguard, she was treated like his wife in his residence.

When Zacharias' car came

to Flintstone Residence, Roy's men opened the door for him. Sheepishly, Shirley said, "I can do this

myself."

The bodyguards stood beside her, protecting her out of habit. Shirley felt at ease after returning to the

Flintstone Residence. Later that night, Roy handed a sealed item to Zacharias.

Shirley was coming downstairs. Seeing that, she curiously asked, "What's that you're holding?"

Zacharias quickly hid the item behind him, looking nervous. Shirley had strong observation skills. Even

though Zacharias tried his best to act natural, she saw through his stiffness. "I can't see it?" Shirley crossed her arms.

"You won't be interested in this," said Zacharias, and he tried to leave. Suddenly, Shirley darted ahead

and took the item away. Smugly, she said, "Someone's suspicious."

Since Shirley had taken the item away, Zacharias felt like laughing, but he held it back. "If you're that

interested, you can open up and check what it is."

Hm, he's giving me permission. She opened up the package, and ten boxes of a certain item fell to the

ground. Shirley felt petrified seeing the boxes of condoms, and her face turned red. "W-Why did you

get so many condoms?" Shirley was feeling dizzy.

Zacharias went down and picked the condoms up. "I couldn't possibly buy these myself, so I told Roy

to get me a ton of it."

Oh, right. Most people can just go into a convenience store and get a box of it if they need to have

some sexy time, but if this guy goes into a convenience store to get a box of condoms, he's going to

make it to the headlines. That means I'll be on the headline too. "You can ask me to get it next time."

Shirley was still blushing. Roy's going to be embarrassed buying this stuff after all.

"Will you do it?" Zacharias smiled.

"Of course. I need this too, so why can't I buy it?" Shirley realized she could be more open about

bedroom matters now. That night, Shirley took a shower in the guest room. Zacharias was still working, so Shirley didn't disturb him.

Instead, she waited for him in her room.

Zacharias went into the master bedroom at eleven. When he realized it was empty, he was surprised.

She's too scared to sleep with me again? Zacharias picked up his pajamas and went to the guest room

on the second floor. He opened up Shirley's room and went inside, holding his pajamas. "You're sleeping here tonight?"

Shirley liked her own room, and she nodded. "Yes. I'm sleeping here tonight."

Spring was coming soon, but the weather was getting colder. Shirley thought it was a blessing she

could sleep in a warm embrace. Zacharias went for a shower while Shirley lay on the bed, watching some news.

Zacharias came out with nothing but a towel on. He didn't wear his pajamas. Shirley rested her chin on

her hand and joked, "You look the hottest when you're not wearing anything."

Zacharias narrowed his eyes and turned off the lights, plunging the room into darkness. Shirley heard

something getting tossed onto the couch. She felt the blanket flying in the air for a moment, and then

Zacharias got into the bed.

Chapter 2626

Zacharias chuckled. "So, you have wished, so shall it be."

Shirley felt herself getting pulled into a warm embrace. She could smell the scent of shampoo on

Zacharias. It tickled her heart, and she wanted to get closer to him. Holding her nape, Zacharias kissed

her. It was a gentle kiss, enough to melt Shirley. She thought she was going to become a puddle.

In the dark, she tasted Zacharias, and her whole body was overwhelmed by his scent. He nibbled on

her lip and dipped down lower. Shirley was shivering, her hands held by Zacharias. In the darkness,

Zacharias took what he wanted from her like a predator.

Dawn came. When Shirley opened her eyes, Zacharias had gone to work. Contented, she slept in the

place he slept in, sniffing his lingering scent. All she could think of was everything that happened the

night before. That was crazy.

Zacharias left a note for her on the table, telling her to stay at home and take a break, and if she

wanted to leave the house, she must have bodyguards following her around. After that harrowing

kidnapping in Flor, he would not let her get into any risky situation again.

Shirley wanted to swing by her grandmother's place in the afternoon. She didn't ask Zacharias'

bodyguards to follow her as she didn't want to waste his resources. If he needed bodyguards, but they

were protecting her, he would be in danger. Shirley had nothing to fear back in her home country.

Shirley had lunch at her grandmother's place. It had been a long time since Ava saw her

granddaughter. She thought the girl felt a little more grown up this time. She noticed the hickey on

Shirley's neck, but her eyes weren't as good as they were, so she thought it was a mosquito bite. "It's

winter. It's not mosquito season, so..."

Shirley's cheeks burned up. She quickly clapped her hand on the hickey. "No, no, it was a mosquito.

There was one in my room last night." A big and fierce one, too. Ava said, "You have to close the

windows. Don't want the bugs to come in."

"Of course, Grandma." Shirley smiled. Whew, that was close. Curious, Ava asked, vice president?

When's the meeting with the parents?"

"We're getting along well. Won't be seeing the parents soon." Shirley was still a little embarrassed

about breaking the secret to her parents.

"Tell him to come over and have dinner sometimes."

"Not a good idea, Grandma. You know who he is. He can't go around anywhere he wants," said Shirley.

Ah, right. The vice president can't visit just anyone he wants to.

It was almost five, and Shirley wanted to go home. Just then, someone rang the doorbell. Shirley said,

"I'll get it, Grandma." She came into the courtyard, and when she saw who was standing outside, her

eyes went wide. "What brings you here?" She was surprised, but she opened the door for Zacharias.

"Came to see Ava." Zacharias smiled, holding presents up.

Shirley knew she was tailed again. How else would he find out I came here? "I was just about to go

home, and you showed up," said Shirley.

"We'll have dinner with Ava, then." Zacharias smiled. Well, Grandma wants to see him anyway. Shirley

nodded. "Sure. Tell Roy to patrol the perimeter."

"Don't worry. They know what to do without you telling them." Zacharias put an arm around Shirley and

took her into the courtyard.

Ava wondered who the guest was. She then saw a young man coming in. He was handsome and

dashing, just like the perfect grandson-in-law she wanted. Ava stood up, welcoming Zacharias. "Hello,

Mr. Vice President."

Chapter 2627

"Just call me Zach, Ava."

"Very well then, Zach." Ava didn't like honoraries either.

"He'll be having dinner with us tonight," said Shirley.

"Oh, good. I can show off my cooking." Happily, Ava went into the kitchen to work. Shirley wanted to

help, but Ava kicked her out. "Go and accompany my future grandson-in-law." That was what she said.

Shirley covered her mouth and came back out, smiling. She saw Zacharias looking at the photos

around the house. Ava's house had an Eastern design. Standing in this house, Zacharias looked a little

different than he usually was. Shirley came up to him and held his arm.

Zacharias smiled. "So, when are your parents coming back for Christmas?"

Oh, he wants to meet my parents. Shirley pursed her lips and shook her head. "No idea. They haven't called me yet."

She's trying to run away. Zacharias put an arm around Shirley's shoulder. "Why don't I invite your family to celebrate Christmas at my place this year?"

Shirley's eyes went wide. "Really?"

"Yes. Should be more fun celebrating Christmas with two families around," said Zacharias.

Oh, right. There's only him, his dad, and Tony celebrating Christmas anyway. It's a little quiet. Shirley

nodded. "Sure. We'll celebrate Christmas together." Shirley then helped Ava wash the greens and set up the table.

Zacharias fell in love with Shirley more, seeing her working hard.

Ava made a five-course meal. Homemade food, of course. It felt like home having dinner here.

Zacharias felt nostalgic. It had been too long since he had homemade food. Ever since his mother's

passing, that household didn't feel like home. Back when he was a teenager, his father hired the best

servants around to cook for him, but the food never tasted like home. Now, he found that taste again.

"Eat your greens, Zach," said Ava.

"You're a good cook, Ava. I love these." Zacharias smiled.

Ava loved the compliments. She liked Zacharias. Both Zacharias and Shirley had their fill. Later, they

walked out of Ava's house, and Zacharias suggested they take a walk.

Shirley smiled. "Don't make things hard for Roy and his men. Let's go home and just walk around the field."

Zacharias nodded. "Of course."

They walked to the car. Even though the stretch of road outside Ava's house was a quiet spot, a car

hidden nearby had someone in it aiming their camera at the couple. The person took careful but clear

shots. In the photo, Zacharias was holding Shirley's hand, and in the photo of them in the car,

Zacharias had an arm around Shirley's shoulder. The person also took photos of Zacharias kissing

Shirley's hair and them sharing an embrace.

It was obvious they were in love. The person only tucked their phone away after Zacharias' convoy was

gone. They sent the pictures to a private account and called someone.

"What?"

"Those photos I just sent? Latest news. Zacharias is seeing someone."

"Which family is the lady from?"

"Looking into it ASAP."

"Tell me everything after you find it. If we want to take Zacharias down, we have to go for his weakness,

or he's not going to fall for any tricks. It was our failure that he didn't die in the explosion last time. This

time, we can't fail."

"Understood. We'll find everything we can about that woman and start all preparations."

The couple came to the field outside Flintstone Residence, where silvery moonlight shone. It was

spacious and quiet. On a whim, Shirley jumped onto Zacharias' back. Zacharias quickly held her

steady and carried her on his back.

Chapter 2628

Shirley rested her head on Zacharias' shoulder and happily enjoyed the piggyback ride. "I loved

piggyback rides when I was little,” said Shirley, reminiscing.

“You were adorable as a child. Of course, everyone loved to give you piggyback rides.” Zacharias

smiled. He was reminded of Shirley when she was younger, and he cursed himself for never trying to

even give her a hug.

Shirley asked, “Was I really that cute when I was a kid?”

“Yep, you were,” said Zacharias honestly, nodding. Shirley was reminded of that time he brought up the

talk about kids. If we have kids, I wonder who they’ll take after. Me or him?

Christmas was coming soon. Shirley got a call from her mother. Her folks were coming back, so she

went home and told the servants to clean the whole place. It would be good to have a reunion. It had

only been ten minutes after Shirley hung up when her mother called again. It surprised Shirley. Did

Mom forget to tell me something? She took the call. “Hey, Mom. Anything you need to tell me?”

“I just talked to your grandmother. She told me you’re dating Zacharias? Angela was shocked like she

had heard the most fantastical news.

Shirley pursed her lips. Okay, didn’t think Grandma would spill the tea. Sheepish but honest, Shirley

answered, “Yes, we’re dating.”

“Tell us when you’re taking him to see us. We need to get ready for it.” Angela smiled.

Shirley thought Angela would lecture her. After all, she did start dating without telling her family. She

didn’t think Angela would talk about the meeting with the parents. “You and Dad have to get ready

before you come back. Zacharias said we’ll be celebrating Christmas together. Both our families.”

“Oh, that’s fast.” Angela was delighted. “I thought we’d have to wait for a while.”

“You aren’t surprised I’m dating someone, Mom?” Shirley asked, curious.

“Nope. Who do you think wanted you to get that internship? Not your dad. Yes, it was me all along. I

wanted you to date Zacharias.”

Shirley’s eyes went wide. What? Mom got that internship for me on purpose?

“So, you’ve been

planning this all along, Mom? I can’t...” Shirley was at a loss for words.

“I know. Unbelievable, right? Just a hop and a skip, and hey presto, Zacharias is now your fiancé.”

Angela was happy she made this decision.

Shirley was half amused, half annoyed. So, Mom set me up.

“I’ll tell your father about this. You kids get along now.” Angela hung up.

Shirley put her phone down and smiled happily. Maybe destiny wanted us to be together.

Three days later, Shirley was told that Imogen had been extradited. She would serve her sentence in

the nation. Her sentence? Life imprisonment. Shirley didn’t feel fazed hearing that piece of news.

Everyone has to pay for their actions.

It was late at night. In a private, upscale tea shop, three silhouettes congregated. The light was dim, so

their faces could not be seen. On the table were photos of Shirley and her parents. The trio fell into

their thoughts.

“We cannot go after her unless we’re out of our minds.”

“Our target is Zacharias. Only when he steps down or disappears will it benefit us, or we’re going to be

kicked out of the game.”

“Zacharias’ policies are impossible for us. He’s obviously coming after us. His ascension to power will

rid us of our strength. Apparently, he's dating this woman because he wants the power and backing of

her family. They can strengthen his hold on his position."

"We need to come up with a perfect plan. This time, we cannot let Zacharias escape."

Chapter 2629

The trio's eyes glinted cruelly. These men were Zacharias' enemies. They were also the ones who sent

killers after Zacharias on the highway, but Lady Luck was on Zacharias' side at that time, and he

escaped.

In the morning, three days later, Shirley was told that her parents were back. Happily, she drove back

home to welcome them. Zacharias had work to do, so he couldn't leave. She was the only one who

could come to her parents.

Richard was in the garden, watering the flowers. The first thing his wife saw after their return was the

wilting of her beloved flowers. It dampened her mood, so the first thing he did was to tend to the

flowers.

"Dad!" Shirley called, and she went into the lounge. Angela was in the lounge, sorting out the flowers

she bought. She was trimming them, about to house them in her vase. Angela was a woman who loved

life. No matter which home she was in, it was a warm and lovely place.

"Whoa, Mom, you're getting better at flower arrangement." Shirley was always in awe of the art pieces

in the house when she came in.

Angela smiled. "Of course. This is my life's love." She looked past her daughter. "You're alone?

Where's your boyfriend?"

“He’s busy, especially now. Tons of work to do.

so he couldn’t make it,” said Shirley, a little resigned.

Angela paused for a moment. Oh, right. I forgot about that. Zacharias is perfect, but he’s a super busy

man. “You’ll have to bear with him. His work is monumental,” said Angela.

“I know.” Shirley nodded before looking at her mother curiously. “Mom, can you tell me how you wooed

Dad?”

Angela stopped trimming her flowers for a moment. She recalled her sweet memories, and she said, “I

made the first move. He was too popular. If I hadn’t made the first move, I would never have made him

mine.”

“Didn’t you only make him yours because he stayed in the base all the time and never got to see any

girls?” Shirley asked.

“It was a romantic process, how your father and I met. And one little thing kickstarted our relationship.”

“What is it?”

“A stick of lipstick,” said Angela.

“Was Dad that romantic?” Shirley smiled.

Angela told Shirley about her past, specifically how she met her husband. Shirley thought it was an

interesting story, and she was glad she was born into a family filled with love. A while later, Angela took

Shirley with her and picked Ava up. They were going to have dinner together that night.

Back in Zacharias’ office, Freddie asked someone to come in. He presented a report from their secret

trackers. After reading the report, Zacharias’ face fell. “These parasites think they can topple me.”

“We need to make our move, sir. We cannot let them have the high ground. If we had evidence about

their involvement in the explosion, we would never have let them run around for so long.”

Zacharias nodded. “Summon the minister for security. We need to work together this time.” He raised

his head. “And on what day am I free?”

Freddie checked the itinerary. “Your schedule for this week is full. Even your mealtimes are reserved for

appointments.”

“See if you can cancel any.” Zacharias frowned.

“No. They’re all meetings with foreign guests. You have to be present,” said Freddie, a little troubled.

Zacharias nodded. “I see. You may leave now.” After Freddie was gone, Zacharias picked up his phone

and called Shirley. Gently, he asked,

“Are your folks back?”

“Yes. Are you free after this?”

“My schedule’s full for the week, but I’ll try to swing by for a visit,” Zacharias said.

“Nothing’s more important than your work. They’ll understand,” Shirley replied.

“Of course. I’ll pay them a visit after I’m done with work.” Zacharias sounded apologetic.

Chapter 2630

“I’ll be staying at my place tonight, then. I probably can’t go back to your place for a few days,” Shirley

said. With her parents around, she couldn’t stay overnight at someone else’s place.

“It’s alright. Spend some time with your family.” Zacharias chuckled. “I can hold it in.”

Shirley chuckled, too. "What if I can't hold it in?"

"Then you come to me anytime you want," Zacharias responded in a husky voice.

Shirley blushed. It's getting worse. Can we even do it if I go at random times? She then imagined how

she would flirt with the serious Zacharias, and she thought she was getting a little pervy.

After the call, Shirley went out with her parents to get some Christmas stuff. Moreover, they had to visit

their relatives. Three days went by, and not once did Shirley get to see Zacharias. She couldn't even

call him at night, worried that he might be seeing guests.

She would love to video call him at eleven, but it was too late, and she didn't want to disturb him. He

would be having an early day the next day. Eventually, Shirley's longing was getting too heavy to bear.

The same went for Zacharias. Every day, when he came back home from work, it was already late at

night. He missed Shirley dearly, but he didn't want to wake her up, so he held his longing back.

Unbeknownst to him, Shirley would also be in her bed thinking about him.

Ugh, it's so hard just to see him now that I'm not at his place. She started missing the days at his

residence. She could see him any time she wanted to.

Time passed, and it was now two days before Christmas. It had been five days since Shirley saw

Zacharias. She texted him, 'You busy? Can we meet up for just ten minutes?'

Zacharias called her. Shirley's heart raced, and she took the call. "Hello?"

"Come to my office. I've spared twenty minutes to see you," said Zacharias.

His time was valuable-his

itinerary was even scheduled to minutes.

Shirley quickly said, "I'm going right now." She hung up, picked up her bag, and trotted to the porch just

to backtrack and check her outfit in the mirror. She then got a new outfit and changed into it. Only then

did she leave. No one but lovers who were madly in love could understand the delight someone could

have when they were on a trip to see their beloved.

Even the air was sweet despite how chilly it was. The scenery was gorgeous, and Shirley smiled. After

going through a series of checks, she finally stood before Zacharias' building where he worked. The

people going around were staff members or those who had important business to settle. She was the

only one here to see a guy.

Freddie was waiting for the escalator. When he saw her coming out, he said,

"Ah, Miss Lloyd, you're

here."

“Hey, Mr. Hurst, is the vice president...”

“He’s waiting for you in his office.” Freddie smiled.

Shirley went around Freddie, her cheeks burning. Freddie knows why I’m here, but why am I

embarrassed? I’m just here to see Zacharias. Eventually, Shirley was standing in front of the office. For

some reason, she was breathing heavily, and as her heart raced, she knocked on the door.

Someone opened the door from inside. Zacharias had taken his suit off, leaving a white shirt on. He

looked and felt professional, and he radiated a regal air that many leaders had.

Shirley could never hold back when something so delightful was standing before her. She acted natural

when she came in, but right after she stepped into his office, she pounced on Zacharias. Zacharias

held her tightly and closed the door, and then he bolted it.

Shirley raised her head. Zacharias pinned her against the wall beside the door. He held her chin,

leaning down for a powerful kiss.

Electric currents swam through Shirley’s body, and she tensed up. We’re in his office! His sacred office!