

Our Billion 491

Chapter 491-After a brief moment of silence, Catelyn took a deep breath. "Excuse me, but I've never seen a proposal this casual before. No flowers, and no ring? You're not even on one knee, so why should I say yes?" She then shoved past Cedrick and walked away, despite how her heart raced.

Had she heard those words two months ago, she would have accepted without hesitation. However, his proposal was 60 days too late, and everything had gone wrong since then. Her life had yet to be straightened out, and marriage would only be another burden on her.

Miles clapped mockingly. "Wow, Mom rejected Big Demon again." "Shut up if you don't want me to leave you here!" Cedrick's eyebrows twitched in annoyance. Both he and Catelyn were not talkative people, so how on earth did Miles become this talkative?

Ollie raised his arm slightly and said in an encouraging manner, "Mom is soft-hearted, so try to spend more time to win her over. Good luck-I believe in you." Cedrick, Catelyn, Miles, and Ollie walked into a tailor's shop.

A worker of the store rushed toward Cedrick smilingly when he noticed the expensive tailor-made suit Cedrick wore.

"Good day, Mister, Missus. What can I do to help you?" Catelyn was too lazy to explain that she was not a 'Missus' and simply listed her requests.

The staff was overjoyed. "No problem at all! Why don't take these boys to note down their measurements?" The staff thus took Ollie and Miles into the backroom with a smile.

The tailor who took their measurements was a young girl, and her eyes lit up at the sight of the twins. Turning to look outside the mini-window at both Cedrick and Miles, she gushed, "Children from your country are so adorable! Your skin is so soft, too! What on earth did you two eat growing up? Are you guys on a family outing? Oh, looking at these two makes me want to have a kid of my own!" Ollie remained polite and reminded her sweetly, "Remember to mark up the measurements. We're on a growth spurt lately." "Of course!" The girl nodded.

The twins spread their arms to let the tailor take their measurements, and the girl could not help but pinch Miles' cheek.

Miles, instead of being annoyed, dramatically sighed and said, "Stop taking advantage of me. You're not my cup of tea." "Ahaha! How did you come to know that phrase?" Miles pointed at Catelyn, who was waiting outside the glass window. "Look, that's my mom, and I want to be with her every second of the day. I miss her when she's not around, and my heart aches when I don't hear her voice for a while." The tailors were rendered speechless at the realization that he was referring to the sort of affection toward his family.

"You two look so much like your father. You'll grow up to be really handsome with loads of girls after you," cooed another tailor.

Miles instantly lost his composure. "Stop saying that I look like Big Demon. I look more like my mom." "Oh, umm..." The tailor was stunned for a moment, but then chuckled and tried to hide it by covering her mouth. "But your mom looks feminine! If you look like her, you'll look like a girl." Ollie could not help but nod at the comment. "That makes sense." Though frustrated, Miles kept the polite smile on his face.

Chapter 492- Standing in front of the display window, Catelyn admired the hand-made pieces on the stand. There were beams of light on top of every cell, and each piece appeared extremely sophisticated under the light. At the very center of the display window was a perfect white wedding gown. With a scoop-neck neckline that hugged the chest, the dress extended all the way down to the ground.

Inspired by the Victorian era, small pieces of diamonds were scattered all over the hem of the dress, giving it an elegant and fairy-like appearance.

Her heart stopped the moment she laid eyes on the dress. It was absolutely stunning, but she looked away immediately.

Cedrick had moved closer and stood by her side. "Do you like this wedding dress?" "I don't," replied Catelyn nonchalantly, albeit lying.

"Your expression suggests otherwise," Cedrick said stubbornly.

Catelyn clenched her fists and turned to stare at him in the eyes. "Whether I like it or not has nothing to do with you, Cedrick. I've already refused your proposal, so stop trying." "How would I stand a chance if

I stop trying?" Cedrick's eyes darkened as he focused on her. "Marry me and be my Missus Mason. The two children will have their names on the Mason family's tree and enjoy riches beyond their imagination. Isn't that something good?" "My boys don't care for titles and riches." "But I do!" Cedrick's tone took a sterner turn as he pressed on the subject. "I want to give the three of you better lives!" He was firm as he spoke, but Catelyn was not impressed at all. She batted her eyes as she thought to herself, 'Does giving me a better life mean that he gets to humiliate me in front of George?' "I'm doing fine now." "Staying away from me and raising the children on your own is 'fine' by you?" He recalled her accusation that day at the rockery stone. She got pregnant by accident before even turning 20, and her life had taken a drastic turn since then.

She had to work despite being pregnant. She even tried sleeping on the road and was discriminated against and humiliated everywhere she went.

He pursed his lips as regret filled his eyes.

Why did he not find her sooner?

Catelyn could hear the way her own breathing grew heavier. "My definition of good and bad can be different from yours, and I'd like for you to respect my choices." "Is this because of George, or the child in your belly?" "This has nothing to do with anyone." Catelyn could not understand why he had brought George up at this moment. The last thing she wanted was for someone else to be involved in the conflict between her and Cedrick "It's about Nine, then?" Cedrick's expression darkened.

"No!" She glared at him in frustration. "Don't you understand? With or without another person involved, I won't marry you." "I need a reason." He had to restrain himself from pulling her into his arms and kissing her when he caught a whiff of that scent only unique to her.

Catelyn, on the other hand, did not understand why he had to be this stubborn.

"I want to work on my career first and accomplish my goals. Is that enough?" "Marry me, and I'll back you on your journey to realize your dreams. You're just brushing me off." She was surprised he could tell that she was brushing him off. After all, she had thought that he had lost his mind at this point.

Silence loomed over the two when Cedrick suddenly reached out to grab her chin. He stared intently at her while switching to a more coaxing tone. "I'll buy you flowers and a ring. Don't make me resort to

ways that you won't enjoy. Say yes now, or..." He lowered his head as he spoke to the point their skin was about to touch.

Catelyn's heart leaped to her throat at the proximity. "A little over two weeks ago, I...was dragged into a dark room, and something appalling happened," she muttered hoarsely, her eyes reddening as she bit her lower lip. "I'm tainted. Do you still want to marry me now?"

Chapter 493-Cedrick was taken by surprise as he did not expect that this would be what haunted Catelyn instead. His expression darkened as he opened his mouth to say something, but Catelyn beat him to it.

"I know you don't like tainted goods, just like how I hate being forced." Her fingers twitched before relaxing as she met his gaze. "Miles and Ollie are both wonderful and sweet children. If you want to make it up to us, just let everything stay the way it is now. I can raise them with you, and they'll have everything that other kids have." After the measuring session, Miles and Ollie's clothes would be finished within a week, just in time for when they needed them.

When the twins stepped outside, they noticed Catelyn's reddened eyes and Cedrick's dark expression.

Though Miles did not wish for his mother to accept Cedrick again so soon, he hated seeing her sad when they fought.

The two started doing whatever they could to cheer Catelyn up, and Catelyn narrowed her eyes with a chuckle, She should be content to have wonderful children.

Her smile under the warm sunlight created a ripple in Cedrick's eyes like a rock thrown into a lake.

He gulped harshly and lowered his gaze. He seemed riddled with guilt as though he had done something wrong again, but he did not know how to tell Catelyn the truth.

Without another word, he left the mall with the three and planned on taking them to an Eastern cuisine restaurant. After all, that seemed to be the common preference for Catelyn and the twins.

The boys ran toward the roadside to wait for the traffic light to turn green.

Just then, Cedrick noticed the neon board above Catelyn was loosening. With a snap, it fell.

“Watch out!” He paled, unable to imagine what would happen if such a heavy board was to fall onto her.

Catelyn noticed that her shoelaces were undone and crouched to tie them when she heard Cedrick’s shout. She gazed up and saw Cedrick frantically running toward her, his expression the extreme mixture of panic and fear to the point that his eyes looked as though they would pop out of their sockets.

She followed his eyes and looked up, just in time to catch sight of the shadow cast by the gigantic board that loomed over her.

Catelyn’s mind went blank, and at the very last moment, she took an impact by the waist. Cedrick managed to reach her and held her in his arms, sending the two of them rolling on the ground as he protected her from harm, like a lion would with his lioness.

The neon board plummeted to the ground, and the ground seemingly quaked upon the impact.

All Catelyn heard was the sound of wind and the muffled, pained grunt by her ear as her world spun.

Though Cedrick had moved swiftly, the board dropped in a way that somehow brushed past his right arm.

“The neon board fell and almost killed someone!” A few passers-by witnessed the scene and hurried over to help.

Catelyn laid on the ground and stared up blankly at the man who shielded her.

His face was pale as blood scrolled down his right arm in the most alarming manner. At that very moment, she could not breathe.

Cedrick struggled to prop himself up while staring intently at Catelyn as though he did not notice his injury. "Are you okay? Are you hurt?" Feeling a lump in her throat, she helped him up with the help of a passer-by.

"I'm fine! Y-You're the one who's hurt!" She was in grave danger, and she did not expect him to dart toward her, rescuing her. 'What would have happened if the board hit him on the head?' she fretted internally.

Chapter 494-Cedrick scowled at his bleeding right arm. He tried moving it and noticed that he could still move despite the pain, so it should not be anything fatal.

At that moment, the twins rushed to their side.

"Father, you're bleeding!" Concerned, Ollie quickly handed his clean handkerchief to Cedrick. Cedrick accepted it and casually wiped the blood off before phoning Alex.

"Don't run off. Uncle Alex will come and pick you up. I'll take your mother to the hospital." Understanding that his wound needed to be treated, Catelyn followed along.

Since his arm was injured, they took a taxi instead of driving to the hospital, which was only a few kilometers away.

The taxi arrived shortly after, and Cedrick had made the arrangement on the way, so they were allowed access into the hospital smoothly.

Catelyn had thought that he would go to the emergency room to have his wound looked at, but she was baffled when she realized that they were instead walking toward the gynecology department.

She grabbed onto his arm in disbelief. "Hang on, why did you take me here? I thought you were getting your wound checked?" "You first. Doesn't your belly hurt from what happened just now?" Catelyn's eyes widened at this. She tried to explain herself but realized that her back hurt from falling onto the ground earlier. She gasped in pain before any words came out and was left to watch as Cedrick called the female doctor over.

Inside the office, she was pinned onto the bed forcefully.

"She's a month and a half into her pregnancy. She accidentally fell just now, so just give her a general check-up," Cedrick demanded the doctor, his tone filled with concern.

The doctor noticed the sweat on Catelyn's forehead and immediately proceeded to perform an ultrasound on her, thinking that she was in pain.

Cedrick refused to leave the room and stood by the bed, all the while staring at Catelyn's abdomen with a dark expression.

Meanwhile, Catelyn's ears rang incessantly, unable to escape the situation despite her effort of trying to get up.

'This is embarrassing,' she thought. She disregarded the shame and tried to explain, "Cedrick, my belly isn't hurt. I've never been preg-" "Sir, are you certain that your wife is pregnant?" The doctor turned to look at Cedrick blankly when she could not locate the fetus' position.

Cedrick's expression darkened as he turned to look at the screen. "What do you mean?" His voice sounded normal, yet it sounded intimidating altogether.

Frightened, the doctor gulped and stammered, "According... According to the ultrasound, your wife isn't pregnant at all." Catelyn was not pregnant at all?

"Are you certain?" he asked.

"Well..." The doctor defended herself from having her professionalism questioned. "The ultrasound doesn't lie, Sir. Have you only been using drug store pregnancy tests to check? Did you not come to the hospital for a detailed check-up?" It did not seem likely for them to make such a big mistake.

Instantly, it felt as though the temperature of the room had dropped, and not a sound was heard apart from the doctor's mumbling.

Cedrick shot a dark glance at Catelyn's belly as he remembered all the times she tried saying something to him. At this very moment, he realized that he had been tricked.

He had been taking care of her, thinking that she was pregnant, when all of it was a lie. His eyes narrowed in rage, and a sneer appeared on his lips. "Is it fun to toy with me?"

Chapter 495-Cedrick had spoken in a barely audible voice, but his words struck her heart like lightning.

"Alright," Catelyn decided silently. Since the cat's out of the bag, I don't see the point in explaining.' Catelyn sat up from the bed to adjust her clothes as she anchored her emotions to remain calm. "I've already tried explaining earlier this morning when we headed out. You just didn't believe me." "So I'm the one at fault, then?" Cedrick's lips curled into a dark, mysterious sneer.

He provoked his sons on purpose in the morning by informing them about her pregnancy, which placed her in a situation where no one would believe her when she said she was not pregnant. Both Miles and Ollie were not convinced, not to mention Cedrick.

"How long were you planning on fooling me had I not insisted that you get checked?" Seeing how furious he seemed and considering the fact that he had risked his life to save hers, Catelyn steadily changed the subject and turned to the female doctor. "His shoulder is injured. Please help treat the wound." Though the doctor was a gynecologist, she should be capable of treating ordinary wounds.

The doctor, too, noticed the blood on Cedrick's shoulder and swiftly brought over sanitizer, scissors, and bandages.

Cedrick merely responded with a malicious glare. "Get out." The doctor stilled in fear. "But your wound, sir..." "I said to get out. Did you not hear me?" The doctor shivered and left the room despite it being her office, leaving only Cedrick and Catelyn inside the room.

An ominous feeling overwhelmed Catelyn, and she turned to exit the room with the doctor, but Cedrick pulled her back and pinned her against the bed.

“Is it fun to watch me struggle over your child’? Are you pleased that you’ve finally gotten your revenge on me?” He felt like a fool for believing her. He had been tip-toeing around her, concerned that he might hurt her belly. Even when he found out that the ‘child’ belonged to George, he forced himself to bear with it and went as far as offering to raise the ‘child’ as his own in Mason Estate.

Following his movement, the wound on his right arm tore, and the overwhelming scent of blood filled the room.

Catelyn struggled to get up, but he simply strengthened his hold on her so she could not escape. In the end, she gave up in frustration and lied on the bed while glaring at the furious expression on his face.

“Sure! I wanted to take revenge on you, but didn’t all this start because you asked me who the baby belongs to?” Cedrick moved his lips, but no words came out.

Further provoked by his silence, she continued, “To you, I’m just a sl*t who jumps from dating David to George. Why don’t you go ahead and accuse me of seducing every single man on earth?” Cedrick pursed his lips wordlessly.

Splat!

Crimson blood scrolled down his arm and dripped onto the white sheet, leaving a red stain that resembled a rose, Catelyn took advantage of his dazed state and shoved him away. Cedrick’s wound was already torn at the time, and he immediately covered his right arm at the impact

Chapter 496-Catelyn was already by the door when she heard Cedrick’s sharp gasp, so she stopped. She wanted to call the doctor inside but turned to find him sitting by the bed, his features twisted in pain.

“Are you okay?” Catelyn asked.

Cedrick’s lips turned pale as a layer of sweat formed on his forehead. He swayed slightly and looked as though he was about to pass out.

Realizing that he was not faking it, she disregarded all other thoughts and hurried over to him. "I told you not to move around so much! The wound-mpf!" Just as she reached out to steady Cedrick, he wrapped his arms around her waist abruptly so she would fall into his arms and land on his lap. He propped his chin on her shoulder and tilted his head to the side as he muttered, flustered, "You liar." Catelyn was stunned by his tone and had stopped struggling. Since he was holding her from behind, she had to look at him from the corner of her eyes while clenching her jaw. "Didn't you just lie to me as well?" Cedrick hesitated and reasoned, "You wouldn't have turned if I didn't. This is the only way to get you to sit quietly in my arms."

"You lied to me, and I lied to you. We're even now." "Dream on." Cedrick instantly lost the fragile demeanor and became dominating again.

"You've been lying to me for the past two weeks, and I just saved your life. Do you really think we're even now? I didn't come to Franche from Sapphire City to get even with you..." Catelyn retorted uncomfortably, "You've been torturing me since you came to Franche, so I wouldn't say that we're even, either." Cedrick stared at her lips as they moved. His expression darkened as he lowered his head to seal her mouth with his.

If she did not have anything nice to say, why did he bother listening at all? He might as well stop her from saying anything.

Alex sent the twins home and turned back to the hospital to check on Cedrick anxiously, only to be chased outside by the doctor.

The door was shut, and no one knew what was happening inside.

Alex paled and thought to himself, 'Master Cedrick is severely injured, and Miss Clark must be hurt as well! Why won't they let the doctor in?' He went to ask the doctor and quieted down when he was told that Catelyn was not pregnant. He hurried back to the room and knocked on the door, despite the mounting pressure he felt.

"Master Cedrick, even if Miss Clark isn't pregnant, she's probably still badly shaken after that neon board nearly hit her. Leave her be! The doctor is waiting outside the door, so why don't you two talk after the doctor treats you? The young masters are still waiting for you at home..." Creak!

Alex's knocking motion stopped as he quieted down when he saw Catelyn opening the door.

"Come inside. He's passed out," she said to the few people standing outside the door, all the while ducking her head as though she was hiding something. The doctors rushed inside to check on Cedrick.

Still worried, Alex leaned over to Catelyn and asked, "Miss Clark, did Master Cedrick...do anything to you?" He was not sure what was on Cedrick's mind, but Alex was certain that it took Cedrick every last ounce of tolerance to accept Catelyn's pregnancy and to decide to raise George's child. Since that was revealed to be a lie, Alex was concerned that Cedrick would kill Catelyn.

Chapter 497-Catelyn blushed at the question and mumbled, "Nothing." She then ran off to the bathroom.

She had been swift, but Alex was a trained bodyguard with sharp eyes, and he spotted her swollen lips right away. Confused, he wondered if she and Cedrick had settled their disagreement. If so, he and Charles would finally be able to relax.

In the bathroom, Catelyn touched her burning lips and noticed that they were swollen, just as she had expected Cedrick Mason, that beast! she grumbled. 'It wasn't even a kiss anymore. He was straight up chewing on them.

What frustrated her more was that the skin on her lips was torn to the point that ointment would not help the swelling, let alone the fact that she did not have any ointment. Still, she could not just walk out looking this way either.

Just as she started panicking, she recalled that there were free face masks at the hospital lobby hall and went to get one-despite the embarrassment-before heading to the counter to make payment.

They had been in too much a hurry, and the fee for Cedrick's stay in the hospital had yet to be paid. Considering the fact that he got injured from protecting her, Catelyn saw it fit for her to pay.

"Hello. That'll be a total of 13829.40 Euro." The nurse handed the bill to Catelyn.

Catelyn's eyes widened in disbelief as she doubted her ears. "Excuse me? How much did you say it was?" The nurse gave her an impatient look but repeated herself out of professionalism, "The VVIP room in our hospital cost 2500 Euro per night, which included the consultation and meals. You've also made a booking for a consultation with a gynecologist, right? That hasn't been paid yet either." 'To hell with capitalism! It's no wonder people say it's better to lose a bag of blood than to come to the hospital,' grumbled Catelyn inwardly.

Though reluctant, she handed her credit card to the nurse.

"I'm sorry, but there isn't enough balance in your card," said the nurse curtly after a few moments. "Do you have another card?" 'No balance?' Catelyn's eyes widened as she remembered that she had recently applied for an extracurricular class for the twins, which cost her a great sum of money.

"If you can't pay, then I'm going to have to cancel all bookings you have after this." The nurse glanced at Catelyn and moved her mouse to cancel the booking for the VIP room.

Catelyn pulled out a universal black card and slid it across the counter toward the nurse. "Hang on. Use this one." The payment of over 10000 Euro went through, and Catelyn received the receipt in return. She stared at it and felt even more agitated.

She came close to using the money David had given her, but Cedrick seemed to visibly loathe him, so she decided to use the black card she received from Cedrick instead. She would have to work extremely hard to repay him in the future.

Cedrick's bleeding had ceased, and he then received a shot for tetanus for good measures, so he slowly began to regain consciousness. He immediately searched around the room for Catelyn as soon as he woke up.

Did she actually leave, despite how severe my injury is? Is her heart made of stone?' His expression darkened as he lifted the blanket to get out of bed. Catelyn came out of the washroom just in time to see Cedrick up, looking for slippers.

Chapter 498-Since Cedrick's injury concerned only his arm, he did not bother putting his jacket on. With a thick layer of bandage wrapped around his arm, his tanned skin glittered under the light. His brooding features were filled with rage as he pursed his lips.

“Don’t move around! The wound is going to tear, and the doctor will have to come to fix you up again.” Catelyn’s hands were still wet from washing her hands, and because he was half-naked, she did not approach him and simply reminded him from afar.

Cedrick’s head snapped up when he heard her voice. He extended his left arm in an inviting manner and said, “Come here.” Catelyn pursed her lips as she tried to act composed. “Your wound is hurting again, right? I told you not to move around...” “Are you coming here, or do I need to go over there to grab you?” spoke Cedrick expressionlessly.

Catelyn did want to find a nurse, but he refused to set his arm down. Seeing how pale he seemed, she caved in the end and walked toward him. “I’ll just have a look at your wound for y-ah!” Before she could finish her sentence, he wrapped his arm around her waist.

“Cedrick Mason! What are you doing? Let me go!” Worried that his wound would tear again, she did not dare struggle and simply kicked her leg in frustration while being pinned against the bed, hoping desperately that she could find somewhere to hide.

Cedrick, too, fell back against the bed without any concern for his injury to meet her eyes. “Lie to me about this sort of thing again, and I’ll hit you.” His musky scent enveloped her. She shivered and grew more agitated at his righteous tone. She clenched her fists and started swinging them. Since his wound was on the arm, her fists landed on his nose and collarbone.

Cedrick was not at all bothered or pained. On the contrary, Catelyn’s back began hurting, and her punches started to lose strength. She laid on the bed, breathing heavily, while Cedrick seized the chance to inch in closer and pressed his forehead against hers. “Your lies had me acting so pathetic the entire time.

Spanking you would be considered a mild punishment. Don’t you dare do that again.” Rendered speechless, she scratched her head. She wanted to mention that she had used his card for the hospital bill, but not only had she given up on mentioning that, she regretted not maxing out the card altogether.

Alex came back with lunch just in time to break the awkward atmosphere between the two.

Catelyn made up an excuse to escape and left the hospital. She glanced at the building behind her before leaving, her heart and mind twisted in a mess, knowing that she would lose her stance if this continued.

Alex had ordered take-out from a five-star hotel. He pulled out the table and laid out the dishes, one by one. There were a total of five to six dishes, all ordered in accordance with Cedrick's preference for a milder flavor.

"Master Cedrick, you might experience some inconvenience if you eat with your left hand. Should I go find a nurse-" "To feed you?"

That was what Alex wanted to say, but he stilled at the sudden drop of temperature in the room when he received an icy glare from Cedrick. He quieted down at the realization that Cedrick would only be willing to show his vulnerability in front of Catelyn.

Cedrick sat on the side of the bed and held the spoon with his left hand. Though not as agile as his right hand, it did not affect his motion or his elegant demeanor.

Alex watched in awe.

When Cedrick noticed that he was still standing there, he muttered, "Do you have something to say?" Alex snapped out of his mini trance and said, "Master Cedrick, I've looked into what happened. "The board didn't fall on its own. Someone loosened the screws ahead of time."

Chapter 499-Cedrick paused and narrowed his eyes. "So it was planned?" "Yes. I've looked into Miss Clark's personal life. Amy Jacqueline was in the mall at the time, and Ivan was in the office. Neither had the time to do it, and there were no suspicious transactions from their accounts either. Those two couldn't have been the culprit." "What about the surveillance cameras?" "The board was too big and could easily hide a few people underneath it, so I'm afraid that surveillance footage wouldn't be of much help," Alex said gingerly.

Completely losing his appetite, Cedrick gazed up at the reflection on the glass window. He had thought that it was merely an accident and was thus surprised that someone was behind it. Had he been one step slower or were not swift enough to shove Catelyn aside, perhaps both Catelyn and him would be in the funeral home at this moment.

“Anything from Nine?” Alex was stunned. “You suspect that the Ninth Master is behind this, Master Cedrick?” “Isn’t this what he always does to pawns he no longer has use for?” “Information of what happened hasn’t reached Sapphire City yet, and everything is still under investigation. I’ll try my best to find the person who loosened the screws and have that person lead me back to the real culprit who plotted this.” Alex paused for a moment before he added carefully, “I don’t think the Ninth Master is behind this. If he wanted Miss Clark dead, he would have never freed her and the two young masters back in Sapphire City.” Cedrick’s expression darkened as he clenched his fists. “Whether it’s him or not, we’re not letting this go. Check everyone in Sapphire City. It could be anyone.” “Understood. I’ll investigate this matter dutifully.” Once Alex left, Cedrick got up expressionlessly and strode towards the window, staring down at the exotic buildings of Franche with a fierce look on his face.

He had plotted against many throughout his life and had been set up multiple times, but if someone dared to lay their hands on Catelyn and the twins, he would make them regret being born into this world.

Meanwhile, in a certain private manor in Sapphire City.!

Early that morning, Maia received notification from the assassins she hired that the mission had failed.

Cedrick had saved Catelyn at the last minute, and it was Cedrick who ended up in the hospital.

Judging from the interaction between Catelyn and Cedrick, it seemed as though their relationship had improved instead.

“Trashbags, all of you! Do you remember what you promised me before? I paid you so much, yet you fail to achieve the easiest mission there is!” Maia tightened her grip on the phone as she stood before the curtains, screaming at the person on the other end of the call.

The person on the other end of the line said something, and Maia hung up in frustration.

All of a sudden, a steaming warm body pressed up against her from behind.

Richard, dressed in a robe, wrapped one arm around her and brushed his fingers past her hair gently.

The two had started seeing each other since Cedrick called off the wedding with Maia, and they grew even more reckless than they had been before.

Maia was already agitated, so she shoved him off. "Get off. I'm not in the mood!" Richard lost balance and fell back against the bed. Instead of getting annoyed, he propped his head up with one hand and admired the furious expression on Maia's face.

To him, she looked beautiful even when her face was twisted with anger.

Maia became even more agitated and thought to herself, 'Why is it that all the guys who like me are like this?' She went to the wine cabinet to pour herself multiple glasses of wine and gulped them until her anger was barely at bay.

Richard took in her beauty and reached for the nightstand drawer to pull out a pile of photos before walking over to Maia.

The photos were taken when Cedrick took Catelyn and their twins to the mall.

The family of four looked intimate and sweet together in the photos. "You're trying to provoke me, aren't you?" Maia squinted at him maliciously.

Chapter 500-Richard grazed Maia's earlobe with his lips as he spoke, "Mai, have you forgotten that Franche is the territory of the Kingsley family? Even if you wanted to hire assassins, you should've done so through me." "The Kingsley family?" Under the influence of alcohol, she stopped before pushing him away.

'That's right. How did I forget about this?' she thought to herself. 'The Kingsley family has been slowly moving their assets overseas across the years. Even the four most powerful families and other families in Sapphire City can't compare to the Kingsleys when it comes to connection and influence in Franche.' She set her glass down and turned to throw herself into his arms, drawing circles on his chest. "Are you saying this so that I'll try to please you?" "I just want you to be happy." Richard breathed heavily as he palmed her waist.

"Cedrick is with Catelyn now. Won't you stop thinking about them? I'll love you forever." Maia's eyes glittered with malicious intent, but she simply leaned into his embrace instead of saying anything. "Take me." Richard gulped upon hearing this and lifted her up before pinning her against the wine cabinet.

A heavy scent of blood filled the room.

Just as Richard and Maia were indulging in pleasure, Maia felt a sharp pain in her lower abdomen and felt blood coursing down her thighs.

Richard seemed to have noticed it, too, and hurriedly carried her to the bed.

The crimson liquid stood out on her fair thighs, and Richard paled.

Maia reached her fingers to touch it and gaped. "Why is there blood?" "Don't worry, I'll send you to the hospital right away-" "Hang on." Maia pulled him back, her eyes filled with fear. "I think my period has been a little late for a couple of days." Delay in period and blood?

"Goodness, Mai, you could be pregnant!" Richard came to the sudden realization and frantically tried to dress her, wanting to send her to the hospital despite how discomfited he looked.

"You can't send me to the hospital." Maia grabbed onto his arm with one hand and rested another on her lower abdomen. "Get a doctor here. Remember; keep a low profile." Richard was displeased that Maia would care about such a thing when he desperately wanted the entire world to learn that she was pregnant with his child. However, when he saw the way she looked at him pleadingly, he gave in.

The doctor arrived shortly after to check on her. As expected, she was indeed pregnant-two months in, even.

This must have happened during the time they sneaked around prior to Maia's wedding with Cedrick. They tried constraint but were both reckless at the same time.

Wanting to destroy her relationship with Cedrick, he had purposely not used protection multiple times.

Once the doctor was gone, Maia swung at Richard. "This is all your fault!" Richard's cheek went completely numb. He continued staring at her stomach and consoled gingerly. "You're pregnant with my baby now, so don't get too emotional. If you need to blow some steam off, I'm right here. You can scream at me or hit me all you want." What a loser!

Maia laid back on the bed and refused to look at him, but she then seemed to have remembered something all of a sudden, I'm sorry, Richard. I didn't do that on purpose. It's just that getting pregnant right now is... All my plans are messed up now," Maia squeezed out her tears and bit her lip in the most innocent manner she could manage. Not wanting her to shed a single tear, he said, "I'll marry you. I might not be as powerful as Cedrick, but I'll make sure that you have all the luxury at your expense." "No, I have a better idea."