Chapter 14

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Jessamine wiped the water off her face and looked Thaddeus in the eye. She bravely asked again, "When are we finalizing the divorce? I can't take it anymore."

Thaddeus was so angry that he could combust right then and there. *

Are you that sick of me? Or are you in a hurry to search for your

precious Malcolm?*

He couldn't believe he was actually bothered by Malcolm. He didn't even know whether the guy existed!

Jessamine smile bitterly. "Could you at least let me know when the divorce will be finalized? If your sister could lock me out on the balcony tonight, who knows whether she'd kill me tomorrow?"

Thaddeus didn't believe her excuses. "You were the one who was dumb enough to get locked out. Didn't anyone teach you to fight back when you're being bullied?"

He leaned close to her and gripped her jaw. "Did you know that you dream about your precious Malcolm every night? Every time you call his name, I just want to pin you underneath me and have my way with you."

"Just like what you did last night, right?" Jessamine asked in return.

He'd forced her to have sex with him despite her reluctance, and he'd also stabbed her in the heart.

Thaddeus seemed to remember something. His gaze landed on her injured arm. It must have hurt, coming into contact with water.

His anger dissipated a little, and he released her. Now, there were

Chapter 14

two more fingerprints on Jessamine's face. They stood out since her skin was so fair. "Are you in such a rush to get divorced?"

Jessamine averted her gaze, suddenly finding herself not daring to meet his eyes. She couldn't help feeling like there was something in Thaddeus' eyes that bewitched her every time. She kept her eyes down and said, "Yes, I am."

"Fine, then. I'll see you at the court at 10:00 am tomorrow. Bring your ID along." With that, Thaddeus turned and left, slamming the door shut behind him.

Only then did Jessamine calm down. Now that their separation was imminent, she realized she was far from the composed façade she'd put up. They'd been married for three years, and she loved Thaddeus in all those three years.

She wasn't a machine. How could she make her feelings for him disappear with a snap of her fingers? Her heart still hurt like hell. All she wanted now was for this mess to end as soon as possible.

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Thaddeus got into the car and smoked a cigarette. After that, he called his good friend, Benji Moore. "Come out for a drink."

Benji had just stepped out of a bar. He checked the time, then said, "
Fuck, why are you only calling me now? I've already had a round of
drinks. Shouldn't a married man like you be snuggling up to your wife
and doing unspeakable things?"

"Cut the crap. I'll wait for you at our usual spot."

When Benji arrived at Dehaul Club, Thaddeus was already tipsy.

"Isn't Jessie gonna punish you for going rogue at such an hour?"

Thaddeus looked like he'd just listened to the world's worst joke. He curled his lip and asked, "What are you talking about? And do you have the right to call her Jessie?"

"Don't tell me you're this fierce with her, jackass."

After a few jokes, Benji grabbed a glass to get something to drink. When he picked up the almost-empty wine bottle and scrutinized it, he let out a wail. "My 1995 Romanée-Conti! I've saved it up for a whole year, yet you've drank almost the entire bottle! You jackass!"

"I'll buy you two bottles in return." Thaddeus downed his wine and had a server bring them more liquor.

Benji only felt his heart aching. Judging from how Thaddeus was acting, it didn't look like his precious liquor collection would make it past tonight. He set aside his heartache and started drinking as much as he could. He couldn't let Thaddeus enjoy everything alone.

Thaddeus swirled his wine glass. *Amy's back in the country. I'm getting divorced tomorrow."

Benji choked on his wine. "Are you here to drown your sorrows with alcohol because Jessie wants to divorce you?"

Thaddeus snorted. "What makes you think I'm drowning my sorrows? Besides, I'm the one who asked for the divorce. This is a celebration, you hear me?"

Benji scrutinized him and couldn't detect even the slightest trace of happiness in him. Instead, he saw something akin to woe—it was as if Thaddeus had been dumped.

