

The Ruined Bride of Velvet Nights by Brick Moving Ant

Chapter 61

Chapter 7

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• I rubbed my sore eyes and waved my hand.

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• "I'm fine, really."

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• The shopkeeper, perceptive as always, handed me a pack of tissues and brewed a cup of floral tea before turning away to tend to the flowers.

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• I sat quietly in the shop for a long time, letting my emotions settle. Eventually, I chose a bouquet of daisies and prepared to leave.

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• Just as I was about to pay, the shopkeeper stopped me.

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• "This bouquet is on the house."

•

• I was taken aback and looked at her in confusion.

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• She smiled faintly, as though lost in memory.

•

• "Miss, I just remembered something Joseph told me back then. He said someone might come to inquire about this order one day.

•

• "If she comes alone, give her a bouquet of flowers.

•

• Tell her: Keep moving forward; the starlight will illuminate your path."

•

• That day, I broke down completely in front of my mother's grave.

•

• I never thought he would appear beside me in such a way.

•

• And I never expected that even now, I would still rely on him for comfort.

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• What kind of mental preparation did he go through to leave those words with the shopkeeper?

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• I was the only one who understood the meaning of "if she comes alone."

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• It meant he was no longer by my side.

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Chapter 7

• In the evening, my colleague called me.

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• "Zoey, the flight's booked for next week."

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• "Who do you want to list as the beneficiary for the insurance this time? Your husband?"

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• I shook my head.

•

• "Please put down Doctors Without Borders."

•

• "Doctors Without Borders?"

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• "Yes."

•

• "Why them?"

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• I sniffled and answered softly.

•

• "Because he was a doctor with Doctors Without Borders."

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• As I staggered out of the cemetery gate, I saw an unexpected figure—Jackson.

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• He looked unkempt, with stubble on his face and a weary expression.

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• Without saying a word, he handed me a box.

•

• Inside was a camera, the same model as my mother's.

•

• "The old one couldn't be repaired."

•

• We stood there in silence, staring at each other.

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• I didn't take the box.

•

• I had no idea how he found me, nor where he managed to get this camera from—one that was released in 1994.

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• But what I cherished had already been broken.

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• Even if he found an identical replacement, what difference would it make?

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The Ruined Pride

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Chapter 7

• Seeing that I wouldn't take it, he rubbed his temples, looking exhausted.

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• "Come back with me.

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• "The wedding is next week. The invitations have been sent out. If you keep causing trouble, there will be no way to fix this."

•

• I let out a mocking laugh.

•

• "To you, I'm the one causing trouble?"

•

• He sighed and grabbed my hand.

•

• "Zoey, I know you're doing this because you love me.

•

• "You think I favor her, giving her your belongings. But that's because she demanded an apology from you.

•

• "I saw that old camera lying around and gave it to her so she'd stop bothering you.

•

• "You embarrassed her in front of so many people—I couldn't just stand by and do nothing."

•

• Looking at him, I suddenly felt a hint of pity.

•

• "Jackson, I don't love you."

•

• He froze, then his expression turned cold.

•

• "Don't lie.

•

• "If you didn't love me, why would you look at me like that?"

•

• I chuckled softly, pulled my hand back, and gently touched his face.

•

• "What a pity... I'll never see this face again."

•

• His expression shifted as if he realized something.

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• "You..."

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• But before he could finish, his phone rang.

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• It was Sara.

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• He hesitated for a few seconds before answering.

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• On the other end, her voice was fraught with despair.

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• "Jackson, I'm leaving..."

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• "I'm sorry for causing trouble again.

•

• "It's just... I couldn't help but feel jealous of her."

•

• "Sara, where are you?"

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• "Don't come. Go find her. She's the one you'll spend the rest of your life with."

•

• The call ended.

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• Jackson hurriedly shoved the box into my arms and took off running, disappearing at the end of the street.

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• I watched his figure vanish and sneered.

•

• Lifting the box, I tossed the camera into a nearby trash can.

•

• -I was about to leave too.

•

• The following week, I was incredibly busy—training my body, brushing up on the language, finalizing story ideas, and coordinating with local guides.

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• Meanwhile, Jackson kept texting me from different numbers.

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[Zoey, what did you mean that day?]

•

[Don't we have more to talk about?]

•

[I apologize on Sara's behalf for what happened that day.]

•

[Where are you now?]

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• I didn't reply to a single one.

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Chapter 7

• The day before I left, he messaged again:

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• "The wedding's tomorrow. Will you come?"

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• I snapped my SIM card in half, dragged my suitcase, and resolutely headed to the airport.

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• As sunlight poured through the airplane window, the plane lifted off.

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• From A to Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, there were no direct flights.

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• I had to transfer in Cairo. The entire journey would take almost twenty hours.

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• Enough time to revisit old memories.

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• Pulling on the sleep mask handed out by the flight attendant, I murmured softly:

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• "Joseph, I'm coming back.

•

• "I miss you so much."

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