

## **Seduced 221**

### Chapter 221

All in all, I didn't eat dinner too happily that day. I couldn't help but feel uncomfortable with Felix sitting next to me.

It had been years since I had been so close to him. The citrusy freshness that used to be comforting now felt strangely unfamiliar. It was past 9:00 pm after dinner. Everyone was chatting and laughing as we headed back. All of us bade farewell at the college's entrance.

I turned onto the path leading to my apartment while Felix trailed behind me. His footsteps sounded neither too close nor too far behind me.

"I can head home by myself. Don't worry about it." I wasn't used to him sending me back.

There was no need for any interaction between us as the rehearsal was over. It wouldn't be worth it to risk any misunderstandings with Lilac, so it was better to avoid any unnecessary complications.

Felix acted as though he didn't hear me and followed me leisurely.

He put his hands in his pockets, took a few steps forward, and walked beside me. No matter

how I tried to chase him away, he didn't say anything or leave. He just moved forward

stubbornly.

The moonlight was bright. Our elongated shadows on the ground resembled parallel lines

that never met.

Maybe even the moon knew we were not meant to be.

Along the way, his phone kept buzzing in his pocket. This sound was eerie and terrifying in the night.

But he didn't seem to think the same as he just let it vibrate in his pocket, ignoring it.

The caller was very stubborn. Even though the calls would hang up automatically, the phone would soon vibrate again. If Felix didn't answer, it seemed highly likely that the other party wouldn't stop calling.

I could tell that it was Lilac. She was the only one who could reach out to Felix anytime and enjoyed clinging to him.

He didn't receive a single phone call from the time we started rehearsing until we returned from dinner. I had wondered if Lilac had changed her temper, but it turned out that Felix's phone was on silent mode.

1/2

+35 BONUS

He would neither miss calls nor disturb others too much, which was much better than muting his phone.

His method was much better and gentler than what he did on Thanksgiving that year, when he made everything clear to me and drew a line between us for Lilac.

That was probably the difference between someone he loved and someone he didn't.

When I walked to the apartment's entrance, a woman who stayed on the same floor as me came over while carrying two large bags. She was panting from exhaustion..

I had been worried that Felix would get me into trouble if he were to send me upstairs.

Thank goodness a savior had shown up.

I ran over and helped her to carry one bag. We went in together while talking. Glancing back, I saw Felix leaving under the moonlight, looking lonely.

When I was back in my room, I saw Helen. She was lying on the bed with a facial mask on. She was holding her phone, seemingly on a video call with someone.

Seeing that I had returned, she sat up and ended the call. Taking off the facial mask, she patted her skin to better absorb the essence.

“Did you go to eat barbecue? The smell is so strong.” Helen pouted in disgust, urging me to wash up and change my clothes.

I raised my arms to smell myself. I indeed did not smell good. I quickly took off my clothes and entered the bathroom.

By the time I was done bathing and lying on the bed, 40 minutes had passed. It was 10:00 pm.

It was too late to draw without disturbing Helen’s rest. I unconsciously began to consider moving out and living alone.

Although the cost of living alone would be higher, I would have more freedom. I could wake up and sleep whenever I wanted. I wouldn’t have to suppress my interest or inspiration until dawn for fear of disturbing my roommate either.

Chapter 222

Out of habit, I took my phone over. I noticed a few missed calls, all from Colin.

I patted my forehead and wailed internally.

It had been almost an hour since I returned, but I forgot to inform him.

I felt a numbness on my scalp. I wanted to call Colin to let him know I had returned safely, but I was worried it might be too late. So, I quickly messaged him instead.

After Helen was done with her daily exercises, she stood by the window to drink some water and rest. In a doubtful tone, she said, "That man has been loitering downstairs for quite some time. He seems familiar. I wonder if he's someone's admirer."

I leaned over and curiously took a look. Soon, I was stunned, and there was an inexplicable emotion rising in my heart.

Of course, he looked familiar. It was Colin.

Had he been standing there? Was he so anxious that he came over and waited for me downstairs because there had been no news from me?

My guilt deepened. Because of my negligence, Colin had come to look for me this late into the night.

He was under a tree, walking back and forth. He looked indescribably lonely under the night sky.

I quickly unlocked my phone screen and called Colin.

I was standing before the window, and I saw the phone in his right hand suddenly glowing. He had been holding his phone, waiting for me to tell him I was safe.

Even from upstairs, I could see that he repeatedly looked at his phone screen before answering the call.

"Lulu," he called out in a deep and hoarse voice.

“Sorry, Colin. I’ve been back for a while. The smell of barbecue on me was quite strong, so I went to take a shower immediately after coming back and forgot to call you.”

Maybe I felt guilty, but I almost rushed to finish my words. Despite that, I still couldn’t hide my guilt.

+35 BONUS

Colin’s low laughter sounded. “Well, sleep well, then. Good night.”

I did sleep, just not well.

My recurring dream featured him waiting for me downstairs, causing a constant sense of guilt.

I was tormented by my guilt all night. The next day, I went to have breakfast with heavy dark circles under my eyes.

Helen accompanied me and ordered my favorite ravioli. Perhaps because of my poor sleep last night, I didn’t think that the ravioli tasted as good as usual.

When I arrived at the classroom, it was still early. I chose a spot to set my books down and took out my phone to pass the time. Soon, I found a Facebook post with a high number of likes.

The young college teacher who posted it had a good relationship with Colin. I became friends with him by chance.

It was a three-second video shot inside a car with a dark background, and the lights were constantly receding.

On the left side of the video, I could see a person’s profile with deep features and a mole at the corner of his right eye.

The video was captioned “Forge ahead” at 10:21 pm yesterday.

Although the man’s profile in the video wasn’t clear enough, I could still recognize him. It was Colin.

In other words, he had driven off after leaving my apartment. But I didn’t know his destination.

I wanted to call and ask him why he had gone out so late.

However, the lecture had already started. While I replayed the video several times, the classroom had almost filled up. Reluctantly, I put my phone away and focused on the lecture.

Chapter 223

I tried calling Colin after the lecture, but his phone was off, so I sent a message instead. Still, I didn’t receive a response.

It was the first time he turned off his phone and failed to respond to my messages in time. I couldn’t help but worry about his safety.

I tried calling multiple times, but his phone was still unreachable.

While waiting for my meal in the cafeteria, I realized how Colin must have felt when I didn’t respond to his messages or calls yesterday.

It turned out it was uncomfortable to wait for someone’s reply. But he had patiently waited for me many times, never once complaining.

He doted on me a lot, which made me feel touched.

As he still hadn’t responded to my messages, I became so absent-minded during the afternoon lecture that I wasn’t even in the mood to attend the rehearsal.

It was also at this time that I began to feel more concerned about Colin. I could feel him, becoming more important to me.

After the lecture, I went to the classroom to rehearse.

My childhood friend, Felix, knew me so well that he could sense my bad mood. Instead of asking questions, he opened the balcony window to let fresh air in. Then, he handed me a long, large box.

“What’s this?”. I looked at the shape of the box and could already guess what was inside.

He didn’t answer my question but opened the box instead.

A brand new guitar appeared before me. It was in a light gold color with elegant lines, making it look simple yet delicate. It was my favorite style.

As I admired the guitar, Felix smiled and looked at me with clear eyes. “Give it a try. It sounds good.”

“How did you know?” I asked him curiously.

He laughed and said in a teasing tone, “We grew up together. How could I not know what you were thinking? You were staring at my guitar yesterday.”

+35 BONUS

Looking at the silver knob on the headstock, I smiled knowingly. Indeed, I liked his guitar so much that I was eager to try and play it.

I strummed the guitar softly. The sound gently rippled across my heart, transporting me through time.

“I haven’t seen you touch the guitar in years. Get familiar with it first. If possible, we can perform together.”

After spending all night thinking about it, I couldn't wait any longer to play the guitar. I eagerly picked it up, tuned it, and plucked the strings.

As soon as my fingers touched the strings, a familiar sensation washed over me. However, the music came out in stutters.

After five years, I was no longer familiar with many things. Even my fingers were so unfamiliar with the guitar that they were stiff.

Felix sat beside me and patiently corrected my hand placement while explaining the playing techniques.

After one hour, I finally became proficient and played a complete tune successfully. I high-fived Felix in surprise. "I did it! Maybe we can play the guitar together in the performance!"

He rubbed my head with a smile. "Of course. As long as you want to, you'll surely do your best in anything."

I wasn't sure if he was intentionally flattering me. But regardless, I was happy to be able to pick up the guitar again without suffering from any negative emotions.

It was a sign that I had moved on from the past and wasn't bothered by unworthy things. After so many years, I never expected that I would be able to discover the joy of the past:

I first learned how to play guitar to keep up with Felix. However, as I got more involved, I realized I actually enjoyed it. Specifically, I was drawn to the image of a long-haired woman standing in the wind while stepping on rocks and swaying in the breeze.

Ever since I had that thought, my initial motivation appeared trivial.

When Felix and I successfully played the piece to be performed at the orientation party, I was happier than I imagined.



Despite my performance being imperfect, I still had two days to practice and improve my playing.

Chapter 224

At that moment, I felt like a carefree child again. I put down the guitar and jumped up and down, brimming with happiness.

Felix was also affected by my emotions. We laughed and shouted like fools. Holding hands on the balcony, our happy voices echoed far and wide.

As I faced the floor-to-ceiling glass on the balcony, a figure suddenly appeared.

Colin was standing under the sunset, still wearing the clothes he had on the night before. He was carrying a big shopping bag that had become dusty from all the travel. He appeared tired, with slightly messy hair.

I wondered how long he had been standing there.

“Colin!” I excitedly ran to the window and waved at him.

After thinking about Colin all day and night, I finally felt relieved when I saw that he was

safe.

He had driven out very late last night. I was worried about him having an accident due to fatigue.

I was uncertain about my feelings toward him. But above all, I wanted him to be okay. The thought of him getting hurt or being in pain made me uneasy.

Colin waved, stepped forward, and handed me the bag. He smiled gently. “I went to the city next door and brought back some of their famous candies for you. Try them.”

I opened the bag to find various colored boxes that contained different flavors. The topmost box was shaped like a tiny house and contained a piece of exquisite fruitcake.

I saw two child figurines atop the cake through the transparent box lid. The younger girl's hand was in the elder boy's grasp. The girl had a bright smile, and her head was slightly turned. She was shielding the sun with one hand.

This scene seemed familiar. Had Colin ever taken me by the hand and brought me to buy candies when I was a child?

"Thank you, Colin. These look delicious."

I felt a surge of warmth in my heart.

I was in a good mood as I had gone back to playing the guitar and even managed to play the

7/0

entire tune. Moreover, Colin had also kindly brought me my favorite candies.

+35 BONUS

Recently, my personality had been leaning more toward the gentle and quiet type. It had been a long time since I had revealed my happiness so obviously.

I unconsciously wanted to share my joy with Colin.

He was constantly smiling while standing silently outside the window. His eyes were as magnificent as the night sky, full of his affection toward me.

I could feel my heart softening. It felt like my determination was waning.

I was too nervous to look into his brilliant eyes since my heart was beating abnormally. Instead, I peered into the bag with a hint of panic.

I opened the lime green box to reveal apple-flavored candy inside. I took one out and bit into it. My tongue was filled with a fruity aroma right away. I was content with the sweet and sour flavor.

“Colin, it’s so delicious!” I jumped up happily and spun around twice, feeling like I had gone back to my childhood.

Candy was my favorite back then. I used to feel happy every time I ate a piece of candy.

I was reminded of a memory I shared with Colin. I was five while he was 12. Back then, he would sneakily bring me to the candy shop every week and buy me my favorite candies with the money he had secretly saved.

At this moment, I looked into Colin’s gentle eyes and felt my heart melt. I could see my own reflection through his eyes, which were shining with joy.

Chapter 225

Felix stared at me silently, not even turning to look at Colin.

His gentle expression was inappropriate considering our current relationship, even a little unsettling.

He had always maintained a detached, uncaring appearance as if nothing could affect him ever since he recovered from his injury. However, I always had the impression that despite his seeming disinterest, he was constantly keeping an eye on the situation.

Felix seemed to be waiting for some kind of opportunity.

He seemed like a dormant beast waiting for the right moment to attack. Though he appeared calm and uninterested, he was incredibly hazardous.

Perhaps my perception was incorrect.

"I'm glad you like them. I'll return first." Colin held up his hand, presumably wishing to stroke my hair.

But he dropped his raised hand for some reason and pointed at the candy box I was holding. "Don't eat it at night or you'll get tooth decay."

"Colin, wait for me. I'll go with you. Where were you last night? Did you just drive back? Are you tired? Let's go have a barbecue tonight!"

I put aside the bag, stepped on a chair next to me, and attempted to leap out of the window.

Colin looked frightened as soon as he realized I wanted to leap out of the window. With a serious expression, he put his hand on my head and attempted to stop me.

Felix moved over, took hold of my shoulders, and dragged me off the chair before I could say anything. He flicked my forehead and said, "You're still so naughty!"

Though he deliberately maintained a serious demeanor, his words were laced with an involuntary mixture of fondness.

There should never be any intimate conduct or glances like this between us.

I didn't anticipate him acting in this manner. My heart skipped a beat as his unfamiliar breath approached. Something akin to loathing surged within me. Unconsciously, I stepped back and went out of his scent's reach.

"What are you doing? Don't get so close to me." I cautiously took a few steps back to

+35 BONUS

distance myself from Felix.

He probably didn't know that his proximity frightened me.

Felix's expression abruptly became gloomy. He gave me a sarcastic look, with one corner of his lips raised high and his eyes as cold as ice.

"Are you so afraid he'll see you getting close to me?" Snorting, he sat down heavily. He started strumming the guitar strings hard, producing a rough and sloppy sound.

I couldn't figure out the source of his ire. I hadn't voiced my complaints to him yet, so why was he the first to get angry with me?

"Don't involve Colin. The two of us don't have anything to do with each other in the first place." I was impatient and irritable.

Felix's eyebrows sprang up as he asked me in a chilly tone, "Then who do you want to get involved with?"

Was this the point? He was misinterpreting what I meant.

I was too lazy to pay attention to his absurd actions, so I turned around and looked for Colin.

I wanted to ask him to wait for me so that we could leave together.

But the person at the window had already silently left when I turned around. My heart became tense.

When did Colin leave? Why didn't he wait for me? I told him to wait for me!

He must have come to look for me right after getting out of the car since he looked tired. All he wanted to do was give me the candies so I could start eating them right away.

Stepping on a chair, I peered out anxiously and saw Colin's tall figure gradually fade away from behind the bushes.

Chapter 226

But why did Colin look so depressed and alone?

With Colin in mind, I stopped practicing the guitar. I planned to inform Hannah that I would be taking my leave.

When I opened the door of the balcony and walked into the room, I noticed how lively it was. Everyone was hard at work, practicing. A charming junior was passionately reciting poems while gesturing appropriately.

Seeing these people's efforts, I couldn't say that I wanted to leave early.

As a senior who had cleared the postgraduate admission exam, I should lead my juniors by example.

All I could do was go back to practicing the guitar. Before I could do that, I saw Felix sitting on a chair with a gloomy expression. He was continuing to play the guitar.

I practiced until 6:00 pm. My proficiency in playing the song improved significantly. My arms hurt and felt sore because I hadn't worked them out in a long time.

To avoid the tragedy of going too far, I told Felix to end our practice. I then tried to call Colin to make an appointment for dinner.

But he didn't pick up.

While I was holding the phone in a daze, Hannah burst in. She said that everyone had discussed it and agreed to go for a buffet.

She intentionally positioned herself near Felix and awaited his response with anticipation.

Felix appeared unperturbed by her overt display of adoration as he exuded calmness and indifference.

I couldn't determine if he was pretending or if he truly didn't sense Hannah's intentions. Or perhaps he was already accustomed to being wooed by women since he was young, which was why he didn't care much for Hannah's enthusiasm.

I couldn't reject the invitation, so Hannah ended up dragging me to the restaurant.

The owner of the restaurant had innovative ideas. The restaurant occupied a large space that was more than 30 yards long, and it was divided into three sections.

The area in the center was utilized to receive guests, and the service bar was opposite it. The

+35 BONUS

central area was composed of dark gray fabric couches that formed a circle. The layout was serene and atmospheric, although dull due to the moody and simplistic style.

The themed barbecue area was to the left. From the entryway, I could see a corner of the performance stage as well as the distinctive interior style of the area. The sharp contrast of hues caught my gaze right away.

On the right side was a leisure bar. The booths had unique characteristics due to the relatively low light and style. Overall, everything was planned well, particularly the murals that were only visible under brighter light. It was a refined, traditional look..”

Only a few tables were occupied in the leisure bar as it was still the early hours. The environment looked mysterious due to the dim lights.

A few guys had already rushed in. Hannah and I were walking in the middle with the other women. Felix, whether intentionally or not, moved half a step to my right.

I would have thought he was shielding me if I didn't know what a careless and indolent man

he was.

Hannah and the others were younger than me. They ate the food with gusto, just as they did everything else with passion.

I wasn't that old, but I felt like an observer when I was with this group of people.

I didn't pay attention to Felix, who was seated beside Hannah. A guy who was a little overweight was drinking with him. When dinner was over, his eyes were slightly glazed over, and his cheeks were crimson. He might have had a few too many drinks.

Luckily, he remained steady on his feet, or he would have looked foolish in front of his juniors.

Chapter 227

+35 BONUS

It was already 9:00 pm after dinner. I wanted to return since I was thinking about the drawing I hadn't touched in nearly two days. I even wished that Helen and Matthew would go on a date so that I could stay up late and catch up on the work.

"Luna, how about we go to a karaoke joint?"



Upon hearing their suggestion, I felt a greater generational gap between me and the juniors. They had been enjoying themselves for a long time. Wouldn't it be nice to go back home and engage in activities they liked?

As I had gone to the restroom, I ended up walking at the back. I moved to the center of the reception hall when a junior called me.

I was taken aback for a moment by his loud voice. The guests at the table near the leisure bar opposite were startled as well. The man facing me suddenly raised his head.

Under the dim light, his familiar face suddenly darkened when he saw me.

I was about to leave, but my feet suddenly became a jumbled mess. I nearly fell to the ground as I tripped on my own foot.

It made sense why he hadn't been picking up my calls!

I didn't know what was wrong with me. My feet felt weak and cold from my panic. I made a concerted effort to turn away and stop staring at the sight over there, but I couldn't help myself. I kept staring as if I wanted to read that man's mind.

Felix appeared out of nowhere, embracing my trembling body while gently patting my head. He buried my head against his neck.

I was taken aback by Felix's unexpected appearance. Though he prevented me from falling, I saw blame and obvious demonstration when I unconsciously glanced at him.

His demonstration was for Colin, that was for sure. What about blame? I couldn't

understand Felix's thoughts.

Put differently, my comprehension of him had always been limited. I'd never been able to get a good read on him.

I turned to gaze back at Colin. The woman in his arms was already sitting up straight, looking as innocent as if nothing had happened.

+35 BONUS

Under the dim lights, she peered at Colin with deep admiration.

I was unsure if it was my imagination, but Colin's expression seemed to have darkened. He appeared dejected, incredibly resentful, and more. I couldn't tell whether anything else was mixed in because I felt lightheaded.

It was the first time I saw a woman beside him, let alone one in his arms.

Before that, I never imagined that such a day would come.

By the time I realized it, I was clutching my chest hard. It was throbbing in pain.

Feeling aggrieved, I felt my eyes well up with tears.

Colin said he wanted to be my boyfriend and agreed to wait for my answer. Why did he accept the embrace of another woman in the blink of an eye?

His words meant nothing!

Hannah joyfully extended an invitation to me to join them for karaoke later, but I rejected it.

I explained that I wanted to work on my painting as I had been delayed for two days.

Only I knew the truth. While what I stated was a fact, I knew the painting wasn't urgent. I could finish it if I stayed up late for two days straight.

But I was in a foul temper. I wanted to grab Colin's collar and ask him what he was doing. Why did he go back on his word? Did he think I was easily bullied? Or did he not value me as much as I had believed?

Felix wanted to send me back, but I rejected him and staggered to the college gate. Holding the handrail at the college gate, I took a moment to calm down before steadying my steps and walking toward the apartment building.

When I eventually made it to the grove in front of the apartment, a branch jutting out, scratched my scalp, causing me to cry.

I sobbed bitterly, letting tears trickle down my cheeks and wet the hair that was on my chest as I held my injured scalp.

"Hmph, you can't even take this? If you want to be with him, you might have to endure a lot more. You'll cry till you're unable to cry anymore."

Chapter 228

Felix, who had been following behind me and whom I had deliberately ignored, was unable to stand motionless much longer. That was why he finally spoke up.

It was a pity that his goal was to shatter my heart rather than educate me. I was unable to dodge his hurtful words.

It would've been fine if he hadn't said anything. I could then act as though he never existed. Once I went into the apartment, he would leave and go on his own way. We wouldn't need to get involved with each other.

But he insisted on speaking and even spoke in a tone that sounded like he was mocking me. It triggered my rebellious streak, making me want to lash out at him with the foulest insults imaginable. I wanted to make him feel what I was going through.

Unfortunately, I never learned any curse words from my parents. Since I never had the chance to acquire such an ability, I couldn't vent my bitterness and anger well.

"Are you jealous? Rather than spreading rumors behind people's backs, you ought to work on improving yourself. You look so childish."

I didn't even look at Felix when I spoke, let alone consider how my words might affect him.

My response wasn't flawless, but it was the best I could come up with.

Helen didn't come back, just as I had wished.

On my desk were some snacks, a glass of freshly squeezed juice, and a slice of chocolate cake. She wrote a few words on a blue note in her delicate handwriting.

"Gobble them all up. Wish me good luck tonight."

I had no idea what she meant by that. Did she want good luck in work, money, or love? However, I was cooperative and devoured all the food.

Desserts could make a person happy. I felt great after I finished all of it.

I took out my phone and looked at it. There was no message. Colin had no intention of giving me an explanation.

I pulled out my half-completed painting and got to work.

+35 BONUS

My phone was on the corner of my desk. Approximately once every ten minutes, I would glance at the phone.

Actually, I didn't need to give it a look. Smartphones were so advanced. Notification tones would ring for text messages, phone calls, and even spam messages.

I glanced at my phone multiple times until late at night. My phone's screen never lit up, and I could feel my neck getting tired from glancing over so many times.

In the past three hours, my phone rang twice. The first was a data usage reminder, and the other was a WhatsApp from Hannah. She had sent a video showcasing their unbridled singing abilities.

I pretended I didn't see it because I wasn't in the mood to respond to her.

But I truly wanted to voice my displeasure regarding the data usage reminder. Why would they send this kind of stuff at midnight? It would disturb me from adequate rest and make me misunderstand. It was simply too brutal.

When I finally made it to bed, it was after midnight.

My chat box with Colin had no new messages. The last message was from noon yesterday.

More than three hours had passed since I saw him holding a woman in his arms, but he failed to contact me or send me a message even after such a lengthy period.

Shouldn't he explain things to me?

I picked up the phone and, clicked the familiar number. I really wanted to call Colin to find out more about their relationship, why they were hugging in public, and who that woman

was.

Did he do that to express something to me? Right before pressing the “call” button, I withdrew my finger.

I wasn't his girlfriend. He didn't need to explain anything to me. I didn't own him, and I didn't have the right to restrict his freedom.

I had no right to interfere, even if it meant he was acting ambiguously with another woman and might possibly be falling for her.

I wanted to ask, but I was afraid. It was an uneasy feeling.

Chapter 229

I wanted to ask but was afraid. I was such a coward.

Feeling like this made me so uneasy.

I was having a severe mental struggle. Even so, I forced myself to ignore the pressing need to ask Colin what had happened even though I knew it would drive me to tears.

I didn't have the right to do that because he didn't grant it to me.

As for why I was feeling this grief that I couldn't get rid of despite my best attempts, I didn't ponder too much about it.

Perhaps I had become very possessive of Colin as he had taken such great care of me in the

past.

When he asked for my answer to his confession, I said I would consider it. Perhaps

consideration wasn't equivalent to a promise. He could do anything he pleased since he was a free man. It wasn't my place to meddle.

Yes, it wasn't my place to meddle. So, should I still be considering giving things a go with Colin?

Also, why was there an aching in my heart? It felt like my eyes were searing too, and it hurt so much. I felt like I was about to cry.

I tossed and turned for a long time before finally nodding off. But my dream that night was

a chaotic mess.

From a distance, I could see Colin grinning and reaching his hand to me. I wanted to run over, but he turned into a tiger with gleaming teeth. I was so frightened that I fled while the tiger chased me frantically.

Even after losing my shoes, I couldn't escape it. Panicked, I ran to the edge of a cliff, where I was forced to stop. I found myself between a rock and a hard place. A tiger was chasing me, and in front of me were precarious shoals and cliffs...

I had dark circles under my eyes when I got up in the morning. I had no choice but to conceal them expertly with my superb makeup skills.

The performance was scheduled for tomorrow, but I could already tell that my guitar playing was getting worse. I was even singing several notes out of tune.

+35 BONUS

My self-esteem took a dip, making me entertain thoughts of submitting my withdrawal from the performance to Hannah. But I hadn't told her yet because I hadn't come up with a good enough reason.

Luckily, she was preoccupied and missed my gaffe.

Although I was aware that Lilac would show up, I didn't expect her to approach me at such a late hour.

I thought she would've started bawling in front of me the instant I met Felix. But the puzzling thing was that she never showed up. Even when Felix and I spent a few days practicing our guitars together, there was no news from her end.

When we met, I realized it wasn't that she had been indifferent. It was just that she had taken time off to return to Southville and had only recently returned.

She asked to meet me at the college's beverage area.

"I heard about you and Felix in Southville," Lilac muttered as if she were daydreaming while staring at her tea.

About me and Felix? What was there about us that made her want to meet me while still

pulling along her suitcase and despite her fatigue from her long travels?

"I have nothing to do with him." After taking a sip of my iced coffee, I set it down and gave her a detached glance. I then turned to face the window.

The sun was setting, making for a gorgeous sight. Half of the sky was covered in a lavender

haze.



Lilac's eyes reddened as her face turned fierce and menacing. She clenched her hands, and her red eyes seemed to glow like a ghost that was trying to devour me. But she appeared frail and gentle despite her deadly intent.

Regardless of how I thought of her, she appeared to be a helpless victim of bullying.

I had a strange feeling when I discovered that the opposing forces of ferocity and weakness coexisted on her.

Luckily, I knew her well enough. I wasn't surprised by the inconsistency between her words and deeds because I was already mentally ready for it. Conversely, I would find it strange if she didn't show herself and kick up a fuss.

Chapter 230

Despite what Lilac might believe, I had nothing to do with Felix. Naturally, I was not worried about her causing me problems.

If I had been more shameless, less self-respecting, and more unscrupulous, it was hard to say what the outcome would've been. Would Lilac have succeeded in getting together with Felix back then?

Simply put, I had never given it any thought.

Felix's persistent actions throughout the last several years, particularly in the last few months, gave me the impression that he liked to pursue the one he couldn't own.

Lilac was naturally nervous after hearing my cool-headed remarks and realizing I had no intention of explaining.

I didn't know her well enough, after all. I had no idea that her resentment and anger could cause me such severe pain and nearly ruin my life afterward.

"Luna, don't keep pretending to be innocent," Lilac said gloomily as the conversation came to an unhappy end.

“You know best whether you’re acting innocent. Don’t blame me for being cruel if you yearn for something that isn’t yours. I’ll show you the consequences of snatching that’s mine.”

After all, she always pretended to be weak. When she said these nasty remarks, she displayed her pitiful side while biting her lip and letting tears well in her eyes.

Once she had finished her long speech, Lilac walked away.

The meeting with Lilac wasn’t pleasant and even rather depressing. I wasn’t in a good mood. Before returning, all I wanted to do was go for a stroll to release the negative feelings brimming within me.

Felix messaged me when I was alone in the college’s park. He told me it was practice time, and urged me to hurry. We still had two song elements that we needed to practice multiple times before tomorrow’s performance, so practice might end late today.

After meeting with Lilac, I instinctively didn’t want to have any sort of contact with Felix. I regretted being a part of this performance with him. It wasn’t that I hadn’t anticipated Lilac’s slander at the time; it was due to my inability to turn down my junior’s plea. 1

The fact that Felix joined on his initiative was unpredictable.

1/2

+35 BONUS

This unpredictable incident turned out to be a curse,

“Lilac just approached me and said some absurd words. Felix, I’m not going to perform anymore. You can perform alone. Don’t reach out to me again.”

I put away my phone, feeling worse than before.

Felix was swift to call me, which irritated me. I declined the call.

He kept doing this until he decided to send me a barrage of WhatsApp voice and text messages, at which point he quit calling.

They came non-stop and one after the other.

The text messages were hundreds of words long, and each voice message he sent lasted 59 seconds. There were many typos and numerous homophones, which should have been a result of him using the dictation feature to type the message.

I tried my best to ignore the text messages and didn't listen to any of the voice messages. All I replied in response was, "If you keep disturbing me, I'll block you."

As expected, Felix ceased his behavior. At last, I could feel the quiet.

As I strolled about, I came across a bunch of laughing children, and the sight moved me. I joined the line for cotton candy and bought some for myself.

I didn't really want to eat it. I just saw that every child had one, so I wanted one as well.