

## **Seduced 351**

### Chapter 351

Mom said that if I truly loved Colin, I should fight with him. His future was my future too. We shared a future, so we should fight for it together.

I agreed with Mom, but how was I supposed to tell that to Colin when we hardly met each other? Lately, we weren't able to call each other as frequently as before. And if we did call each other, we'd just relay how much we missed each other and wish each other well before hanging up.

There was no time to talk about this kind of thing during a conversation that took place once

in a blue moon.

Work-wise, Colin's extended absence had affected two of the projects he was in charge of, so much so that the school had intervened. He had to look for solutions during work, and after work, he had to look after Felix. He was overwhelmed.

Aunt Mel and Uncle Austin had gone back to Southville, so Colin was Felix's sole caretaker. He had a lot on his plate.

"I'm good. I miss you a lot, babe. You have no idea. I can't sleep or eat. I just want to hug you. Suddenly, I was pulled into his embrace. His warmth and familiar scent enveloped me. I began to sob uncontrollably.

Love could be torturous at times. I thought I was strong enough, but I kept shedding tears.

Clinging to that skinny yet powerful arm, I cried like a child..

I missed him. I had missed him so much.

“Come on now. We finally met. Don’t drench me in your tears. Turn around. Let me take a proper look at you.”

I turned around, opening my teary, puffy eyes as much as possible. I blinked away my tears and took in the face of my boyfriend greedily.

And for some reason, my body acted before I could think. I grabbed Colin’s head, disregarded my messy face, and kissed his minty lips.

I had read and watched many romance novels and shows. I thought I was an expert in kissing since I was so familiar with such scenes.

But as my lips met Colin’s, other than my pounding heart, I was at a loss for what to do. I only knew to attach my lips.

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Colin was startled. In his starry eyes, I saw the young and naive me.

ver my face and to He quickly regained control of the situation. He pulled his hoodie up shield us from the curious on-lookers. He drowned me in his kisses. I wasn’t until it was over that I realized what I had done.

Abashed, I couldn’t lift my head to meet his eyes. I leaned against him languidly and awkwardly fiddled with the buttons on his shirt.

I didn’t know I could be this... bold. I even made out with someone on campus.

“Colin, I know you won’t talk to me about Felix to not upset me. But I don’t want you to carry the burden yourself. It’s tiring. Let me help you. Let’s take care of Felix together.” “There’s no need to help me. Felix’s condition is quite stable nowadays. You won’t be able to do anything there anyway. Just stay here and take good care of yourself. It is tiring, but when I think about how you’ll spend the rest of your life with me, it gives me the strength to

carry on.

“Besides, I’m a man. I have endless stamina.”

“Don’t exclude me, Colin. I want to be with you.”

Colin stared at my lips, rendered cherry–red by the intense kissing. Then, he smirked and said, “If I need your help, I’ll let you know. Before that, be my obedient kitten and take care of yourself.”

It was another fruitless conversation. Colin still wouldn’t allow me to visit his new apartment.

I knew he did that for my own good, but I didn’t want him to fight the battle alone.

Days continued to pass by until that fateful afternoon.

It was a sunny afternoon. On the campus, I saw Colin running toward the gate. He seemed to be in a hurry, so much so that he forgot that he had a car and driving back might be faster. And so much so that he did not see me running toward him and waving at him. Judging from the speed with which he ran, something bad must have happened to Felix.

Chapter 352

I wanted to help Felix, so I tailed him.

He lived in an old but well–maintained apartment building. I went in after Colin ran inside the establishment. However, he was nowhere to be seen when I arrived at the corridor.

There were a lot of units in the building. Not knowing where he was and not wanting to call, I could only try my luck on every floor.

As I reached the sixth floor, I heard a muffled cry and smelled the scent of blood.

I tried to locate the sound. The door of the innermost unit on the left was left ajar. The sound was coming from that direction.

Trodding lightly, I approached it. Indeed, Colin forgot to close the door. Perhaps he was in a hurry or he had seen something scary.

I peeked inside from the door slit. Just one look and my eyes turned glossy.

A wheelchair had flopped to the side. Felix sat motionlessly on the floor with his back against the couch. His body was lifeless, and his eyes were empty. There was a huge cut on his forehead, where crimson blood came gushing out. It dripped down his porcelain face like a scene in a horror movie.

Colin was kneeling before him. He wanted to carry Felix in his arms. But the next moment, the sedentary Felix thrashed violently. He rained fists upon fists on Colin's face and body before screaming.

Every shriek he made sliced through my heart, filling my existence with pain.

This shouldn't be Felix's first hysterical episode. No wonder Colin wouldn't allow me to visit them. He didn't want me to feel bad for him or feel even more guilty and distressed.

Colin, that dummy. He was trying to protect me in his own ways.

"Felix!" Colin hollered. His hand seized Felix's indiscriminate punches, and his voice was hoarse. "Felix, what do you want? I'll get it for you. Don't do this, please. Mom will be worried about you. Do you want water? Come, I'll put you back in the wheelchair first.

"If it's boring to stay at home all day long. I'll bring you with me to work tomorrow, okay? Felix, I know you're upset now. I wouldn't be able to take the news calmly either. But this is the reality. You have to face it.

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“Besides, the situation’s not completely hopeless. I’m asking friends to find us experts from abroad. Once we extract the blood clots, you’ll become normal again”

Felix then cried. For the first time in my life, I saw him shed tears,

He raised his arms to shield his eyes.

Even when he felt helpless, he didn’t want anyone to witness his vulnerability,

“Your friend called back. He said it was impossible. Impossible!”

Colin was stunned. My heart sank into an icy pond,

So that was why Felix was hysterical. I might have figured the whole thing out.

Colin must have left his phone here by mistake. Feliz then picked up the call from Colin’s friend and learned that he could never be cured. That must have upset him so much that he became violent.

“But it’s not the end. This expert said it can’t be cured, so I’ll find another expert. There must be someone in this world who can help you. Besides, medical technology is so advanced. For all you know, they might find a cure tomorrow.

“I promise you that I’ll find you a cure. Don’t give up on yourself, Felix.”

Suddenly, Colin’s phone rang. He located the phone he had left behind at home amidst the clutter—the phone that upset Felix. Since he wanted to carry Felix back to his wheelchair, he put the call on speaker.

“Mr. White, congratulations. They’ve approved your research topic. They love it so much. Congratulations on winning another prize. The school might throw you a celebratory party. Be ready because you’ll need to deliver a speech.”

Colin was not thrilled by the news. He loosened his tie impatiently and thanked the caller tersely.

“Oh, Mr. White, there’s also another dinner party the day after tomorrow. Prepare for that too. By the way, that mixed–raced woman keeps asking me about you. I think she fancies you. Anyway, I shouldn’t take up too much of your time.

“Once again, congratulations on your successful career and a potential budding relationship. Bye.”

Chapter 353

The caller left a few reminders before ending the conversation. Felix, on the other hand, looked even more disheartened.

Colin didn’t know it’d be a congratulatory call from his colleague. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have answered it.

Felix was once Mr. Popular of the school. He was smart and handsome. He had the look of a business elite. He even received offer letters from various mega corporations in his final year of university.

When he worked, he was as professional and confident as Colin. If it weren’t for that accident, he would have had a bright future ahead of him.

But that accident took everything from him. He couldn’t stand nor see the sun. The successes he was due to achieve would no longer be his. How could he not feel hopeless?

He had resigned to survive instead of living his days. But that phone call that brought good news managed to shatter his will to survive.

I stood by the door, concerned. I made sure they wouldn't notice me.

I knew looking after Felix would be challenging, but I underestimated how challenging it would be.

I knew Felix would be devastated and upset, but I underestimated how cold and harsh the world could be.

Colin was stuck between a rock and a hard place. He wanted to protect me, but he also wanted to shield his younger brother from harm.

I was afraid. What if one day, the man who had been carrying everything on his shoulder buckled under pressure? What if he could no longer support everything?

you.

"Colin, you're healthy. You have a successful career. Mom and Dad love You're surrounded by supportive friends and colleagues. But I have nothing, Colin. I have nothing. Just give me Lulu, please. I don't want anything. I don't want Mom and Dad.

"You can have them. Just give me Lulu, please. I'm begging you."

Felix grabbed Colin's collar and wept like an abandoned child. Tears and snot reduced his flawless face into a slimy mess.

I thought Colin would bark back, but he didn't.

His tall frame staggered. The weight on his back made him falter.

He rubbed his face and said sorrowfully, "Felix, it's my fault that you're a cripple. If possible, I'd give you my eyes, my legs, and even Mom or Dad. But Lulu is my reason for being. I won't give her to anyone. Even if I'm about to die, my feelings won't change. I won't

go of her, regardless if I'm dead or alive."

let

Tears came gushing out of my eyes.

Colin, my beloved, picked me even when faced with a nearly impossible decision.

up to

"Colin, I'm begging you. I love Lulu. I think about her every day, every minute, and every second. I made a mistake and broke her heart. For years, I've been wanting to make her, but I couldn't find the right moment. Now that I'm crippled and blind, I can never ask for her forgiveness anymore.

"But she's the one I want in this life. She's so kind. My body is all fucked up because I wanted to save her. Surely, she'll agree to be with me because of what I've sacrificed, yeah? Please, Colin. I'm begging you. I almost can't remember what she looks like anymore."

Felix slumped to the ground and held his knees before his face. He looked pathetic and devastated but also repulsive.

"If I save your life, you'll be mine."

How I wish I was the one hit by the car during that rainy day.

Colin stood up, his back against the door. I couldn't see his face, but I could imagine the resolution and the disappointment he had toward Felix.

Chapter 354

"Felix, I'm telling you this one last time. I can give you my eyes, my legs, or anything you want except for Lulu. She's my treasure and my bottom line. I won't allow you to take her from me."



I cried even harder, so much so that I struggled to contain myself. The hands over my lips were trembling, but I felt something fuzzy inside me. How lucky was I to have found such a loyal man?

I took out my mental note and gave him 20 flowers.

That said, I couldn't just wait passively for him to bring me comfort and solace. I wanted to reduce some of his burdens too.

"But what about me, Colin? I have nothing left. What should I do?" Felix groaned in despair.

"Get up, Felix. We can talk about this later." Colin leaned down to pick up

Felix.

Then, Felix went berserk. He shoved Colin away as his hands flailed around aimlessly. He dragged his numb legs and crawled on the floor.

Colin was caught by surprise. He fell backward due to the force, and his back hit the handle of the wheelchair, producing a loud thud.

"No! Go away! All of you are liars. Mom said she'd be my eyes. Dad said he'd be my legs. You said you'd take care of me forever. But I'm the one living in darkness without a ray of hope. I can't walk. I even need someone to help me to pee, for Pete's sake!

"None of you knows the pain I'm in. You're just paying lip service. My life is ruined because of your pretentious cold. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't be a cripple. I wouldn't be blind. You owe me, Colin, and you can never fix this.

"Will

you

be able to date Lulu knowing that you ruined me? Will you not feel guilty when you see me? Lulu is mine. She was mine the day she was born. Who said you can take her from me? Who said you could fall for her? She's mine. MINE! Give her back to me, Colin, and I'll forgive you for what you did.

"Give her to me and I'll drop the grudges."

His back against me, Colin's body was very tense. The hands he used to ruffle my hair curled into tight fists. He uttered painfully but solemnly, "Lulu isn't an item. I don't have the right to pass her around. She will decide for herself. Felix, Lulu is my reason to live.

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"Without her, I'm as good as dead. Therefore, take my life."

Felix became more violent. His arms floundered. Only obsession and mania appeared in his beautiful place. His soulless eyes were like the bottomless abyss, the entry to hell.

I was sure this wasn't Felix's first tantrum.

Seeing it for the first time already made me want to punch him. And Colin had to live with this every day while working and taking care of him. I could imagine the stress on Colin.

"I don't need your life, Colin. I only need Lulu. You took your brother's girlfriend. You're a dick. You think you can fool everyone by pretending that you two are in love with each other? No, your hypocrisy never fades. I hate you. I hate you!"

"Even if you date Lulu, you won't be happy. I'll be the invisible gulf wedged between you two. I'll haunt you two for the rest of your life. You owe me this. You do!"

Chapter 355

Within half a year, my relationship with Colin was once again cursed by someone else.

The first time, it was his mother. Now, it was his younger brother.

What did we do wrong? We merely fell in love with each other. Why did they have to wish us ill?

I did not want to cry. I shouldn't cry.

I had done nothing wrong. I was devoted to a man. We were loyal to each other. I was not going to cry.

But tears would not obey my command. They came gushing out incessantly, wetting my jacket.

Felix rejected me back then. How could he force me to come back to him again? How could he force my life to revolve around him?

Shakily, I pushed the half-ajar door open. I took a good look at the interior.

In a corner previously hidden from my view, there were glass shards. A computer was shattered on the ground, the chairs were toppled, and the leather sofa was slashed by something sharp. Its yellow foam spilled to the ground as if it had been gutted.

There was a long wound on Felix's left ankle. There was no blood, but it was swollen. His shirt was grimy, and his hair was disheveled. The tears, snot, and blood on his face weaved an eerie picture.

Felix lay on the ground like a homeless beggar.

What he said made me hate him to the core. But when I saw his sorry state, I couldn't bring myself to say the words at the tip of my tongue. Even my animosity toward him was vanishing.

I hated him, but I couldn't hate him.

I wanted to yell at him, but I couldn't.

So I cried. Those useless tears fell like a waterfall. I didn't know I was this weak. Tears were my only response when something bad happened.

I hated Felix, but I felt bad for him too.

1/2

He did save my life. Regardless of his personal agenda, that was a fact.

ball court. He was my

He was the handsome boy who used to play his heart out on a childhood friend who grew up with me. He was the one I once vowed to spend my life with,

We had a wonderful time when we were young, even though the happiness of it slowly washed away over time. Regardless, it did exist. It was real.

Did I have the right to hate him? No, I didn't.

"Lulu, what are you doing here?" Colin was surprised by my presence. He reached out, trying to grab me with his hand.

I held his cold hand and told him that I had tailed him.

There was panic and pain in Colin's eyes. He didn't want me to visit them because he didn't want me to see the messy scene. He also didn't want me to be hurt by Felix's words again.

Felix grew more frantic when he heard my voice. He dragged his numb legs and crawled

new toward me. Then, he said, "Lulu, you're here to see me. I you wouldn't abandon me. Where are you, Lulu?"

I wanted to let go of Colin's hand to pick Felix up, but Colin tightened his grip until blood drained from my fingers. He wasn't willing to let go. He gave me a pained gaze and shook his head. He begged, "Don't do this, Lulu. Please. Go back to your apartment. I can handle

this."

The pain in Colin's eyes cut through my heart. Yet the Felix on the ground filled my eyes

with tears.

One was the love of my life, the other was the savior of my life.

They both wanted me. What was the right court of action here? Could anyone give me an

answer?

I knew gratitude wasn't love. But if I let my savior suffer, would I still deserve love? If love was built on gratitude, would the love ever be pure?

Chapter 356

"Say something, Lulu. Say something and I'll be able to find you. Lulu..."

Felix's hands flailed around in the air. I couldn't bear to see his helplessness. The wounds and blood on his body only further pained me.

My heart felt like it was ripped apart. It hurt.

I broke free from Colin's imprisonment and leaned down to carry Felix in tears. I told him that I was there and that we could talk properly once I put him in his wheelchair.

Felix grabbed my hand. He propped his upper body up in great difficulty and pulled me into a tight embrace. Crying but smiling, he said that I came to see him. He knew I wouldn't abandon him. He also said that he loved me a lot and begged me not to leave him.

"Don't leave me, Lulu. I only have you left in this world. Say something, Lulu. You still have feelings for me, don't you? You won't mind that I'm disabled now. You'll stay by my side forever, right?"

I couldn't say anything.

His embrace was cold. His bony frame stabbed into my body. He was so skinny, but he hugged me tightly.

He did not smell like a fresh orange anymore. He reeked of pain and desperation.

I did not want the hug, and I did not need the hug. But I couldn't shove him away. He was in pain and despair. He struggled to just sit upright. And I was the one who gave him so much pain. How could I shove him away?

I didn't want to hug him or shove him away, so all I could do was cry.

I wasn't weak or hesitant. Anyone in a similar position would understand the moral dilemma I was facing. I was suffering as much as they did, if not more.

My heart wanted Colin, but Felix was my responsibility—a responsibility that I couldn't shirk

What should I do?

Colin suddenly lashed out. He broke us apart and tossed Felix to the sofa. Then, he grabbed my wrist and stood up.

Before I could steady myself, he yelled at me, “Who said you could come here? You’re not

1/2

welcome. Leave!”

He was very strong. The force knocked my body against the wall, triggering my shoulder injury that hadn’t healed completely yet. The agony drained the color from my visage. I broke out into a cold sweat, and I couldn’t utter a word.

Seeing my distress, Colin snapped back from his fury. Guilt replaced his rage, and he opened his arms to hug me.

My shoulder was hurting. Colin’s outburst hurt my feelings too, but I didn’t blame him.

My mind was a mess. One moment, I saw the despair in Felix’s eyes. The next moment, I saw Colin’s pain. They were looking at me, waiting for me to make a choice.

Who should I pick? My love? My savior? Or myself?

I did not know. The answer eluded me.

My brain hurt. Screaming, I stormed out.

The number on the elevator kept increasing. When I arrived at the staircase, I heard Felix wailing loudly like a hopeless person and Colin calling out my name wistfully.

I stood at the staircase for five minutes until silence returned to the corridor.

Colin did not chase after me, and no one called me on my phone.

Colin, Felix, and I—friendship, love, and gratitude.

There was no right answer.

Chapter 357

I exited the apartment building, distraught. It was a sunny day, with the rays illuminating the whole world. Yet, I did not feel warm.

Perhaps after the accident, my life would never be sunny and warm anymore.

I did have a bad feeling back then, and I hated my hunch. When I wanted it to work, it never did. When I didn't want it to work, it always worked.

I dragged myself back to campus and back to my apartment. As soon as I was in my room, I flopped on the mattress, allowing the darkness to consume me.

I slept for a very long time. Were it not for Queenie's call, I would still be in my slumber until tomorrow morning or even later than that while dreaming of something eerie.

If only I could sleep forever. That way, I wouldn't have to face the dilemma.

"Luna, were you crying?" Queenie asked apprehensively when she saw me.

She was my good friend, alright. Despite the distance, she could tell something was about me right away.

"I was." I sniffled. A listener would do me good when I felt helpless and lost.



“Hey, there, there now. Tell me what happened. I might not be able to help you physically, but I can listen.” Queenie sounded quite upset too, but she still offered to help. I felt a bit

better.

Flynn and she had been dating on and off for the past few years. It must have worn her down too. She used to be so easygoing, but love had exhausted her. I could feel her pain and despair in the past few calls we had. I was worried that she might not be able to hang in for any longer.

When we were at Lincoln University, Julie and I often kept her company as she drowned her sorrows away. Now that we were apart, I couldn’t be there for her. She had to endure the tough days herself.

We all had our own battles.

When we had our last meal together, the three of us hugged and swore that wherever we were and whatever happened, we’d be there for each other.

The frustration she felt must be unbearable, which was why she decided to call. She wanted

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to rant to me. But when she heard how upset I was, she forgot about her own woes and tried

to cheer me up.

This must be what a real friendship was like.

I relayed to her what had happened. She was devastated by the whole thing too.

“Luna, you’re the prettiest among us. And you’re the one who’s pampered the most. Julia and I thought you’d end up in a perfect relationship. Who would have known that this would happen to you?”

“Queenie, I don’t know which option comes with the least damage. I can’t let go of Colin, but I can’t just leave Felix high and dry either. I’m in a dilemma.”

“I know. I’d be stumped too if this happened to me. But just so you know, Lulu, before you make any decision, make sure you won’t regret it. Because there’s no second chance for certain things. If you miss the right one, you won’t find him again.

“So think it through. Moral conscience is important, but it’s not necessary.”

Yes, moral conscience wasn’t necessary, but it was a principle to follow.

My mind was a mess. I couldn’t process the whole thing. I didn’t want to make a hasty decision, so I decided to talk to my parents. They had lived longer than I had, so they should be able to give me the best advice based on their experiences.

“Enough about me, Queenie. How are Flynn and you doing lately?”

Silence ensued. Then, Queenie forced a wry smile. “Same old.” “Same old as in what? Is his childhood friend still a nuisance?”

Chapter 358

“Flynn’s grandpa is celebrating his 73rd birthday this weekend. They’re throwing him a huge birthday banquet.”

“Are you attending it, then?”

Queenie laughed. Her crisp chuckle traveled from the other end of the line. It was a joyous laugh, but it sounded sad to me.

“He’s going with a female companion, but it’s not me. Do you know? He has never invited me to any formal occasion. Never. It’s like I bring him shame or something. He won’t let anyone see us together.”

Her laughter slowly vanished, replaced by a croaky voice.

“The contract will be over soon. What’s your plan next?”

After Queenie graduated, she was headhunted by a state-owned company. They offered an attractive employment package and promised her a promotion. However, Flynn persuaded her to quit her job and join his company, citing his unwillingness to be separated from her

as an excuse.

Perhaps Queenie was a lovesick girl, or perhaps she was smitten with Flynn, she moved to where Flynn lived without paying any heed to her family’s opposition. She joined his company as a rank-and-file employee, working under Flynn’s childhood friend, Daniela.

Behind Daniela’s naive facade was an ugly heart. She had been making Queenie’s life difficult, often making her work overtime until late at night. When Queenie told Flynn, he said that Queenie had no prior experience, so she was expected to work extra hard.

When she brought it up again, he shut her down impatiently, saying that they could never build a future together if she couldn’t deal with this hardship.

Needless to say, Queenie had a hellish year.

Everything was alright at first. Flynn would visit her and drive her to and from work every day. They would live together in the house he had bought her. As time went by, he stopped dropping by as often as before, saying that he was too busy.

He withheld everything from her. Oftentimes, she only knew that he had come back from a business trip from Daniela's social media posts.

Julia and I had told Queenie to reconsider the relationship. She shouldn't settle for someone

1/2

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who treated her badly like Flynn. But she told us that she wanted to wait for a bit. Perhaps he still loved her but he was just very occupied. If he no longer loved her one day, she'd leave.

She didn't say that to convince Julia and me but to convince herself.

After what I had been through with Matthew, I lost even more faith in her relationship with Flynn. Love was nothing before class differences. Money and power would destroy a strong relationship.

"There are two more months left, Luna. But I'm so tired and disappointed. What if I can't stand it anymore one day and give up?" Queenie choked.

She loved Flynn deeply. If she had to give him up one day, it'd be as if she had lost a part of herself. It'd hurt a lot.

"Queenie, if you decide to leave but you don't know where to go, come to me. I'll keep you company."

"Is that a promise?"

"Yes."

I opened my WhatsApp and saw many text messages from Colin. Perhaps he didn't send me voice messages because he didn't want Felix to overhear them and throw another tantrum.

“Sorry, Lulu. I didn’t mean to hurt you. I went crazy when I saw you two hugging together. I didn’t mean to hurt you. Sorry.

“Please reply. Babe, I’m worried about you.

“Does your shoulder hurt? I can’t come right now. Go to a hospital with someone and have it checked. Let me know how it goes.

“Please don’t ignore me, Lulu.”

Chapter 359

“It’s okay. My shoulder doesn’t hurt anymore. No need to worry about me, Colin. I’ll let you know if there’s anything.” I didn’t want Colin to feel guilty, so I replied to his message.

Colin replied to me instantly as if he had been staring at his phone and waiting for my response. “Take good

“Take good care of yourself. Once I handle everything here, I’ll find a way to make it up to you. I miss you and love you. Many kisses.”

“Okay, Colin. I’ll wait for you.”

After I sent the text message, I placed my phone against my chest and closed my eyes.

Colin didn’t text me that afternoon, I didn’t send him anything to bother him either.

At night, Mom had a video call with me and asked if Felix was doing okay. I told her what happened during the day and asked, “Mom, if I had to pick either Colin or Felix one day, who should I pick?”

Mom tried to console me with her affectionate gaze. “Oh, my baby girl. We want you to live a happy life. A life that owes nothing to anyone. As a mom, I want you to follow your heart

and date Colin.

“But at the same time, when I put myself into Melinda’s shoes, I’d want Felix to be happy and safe too. You can’t have everything in life. You can show everyone your best self, but only you know the scars and wounds you have.

“You have Colin’s love and a healthy body. Indubitably, your challenge will lie elsewhere.

You’re smart, Luna, so I’m sure you know what I’m getting at. The moment Felix saved you,

he became your responsibility. I’m not trying to guilt-trip you. But as human beings, we

must have a moral conscience.”

I wept.

Mom then continued, “Don’t cry, Luna. Be strong. You’re not stuck in a dead end. Do what

you have to do now and find a solution. That’s what you should do. I want my daughter to be resilient and optimistic.”

“Yes, Mom.”

Mom was telling me in her own way that Colin was the right man for me and that I shouldn’t give him up. However, Felix was my responsibility and I shouldn’t forget it either.

my future and peace of mind, I needed to work harder.

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Yes, Mom. I'd become stronger.

The only solution right now was to find a way to cure Felix's condition. Whether Colin and I could lead a life of happiness depended on whether Felix could regain his mobility and eyesight.

I was raised under my parents' protection. When I was at Lincoln University, I had Colin to fall back on too. I had never handled a problem myself. And now, I had to grow up. I had to learn to protect my dear ones.

Helen hadn't come back for a few days now. Instead of waiting passively, I called her and asked her to help me find renowned neurosurgeons.

While I had promised not to contact Matthew anymore, given the extraordinary circumstances, I notified Helen first before calling him for help.

The Loxley family was a prestigious family in Jinovy. Perhaps he could help me.

When I told him that it was for Felix, he hesitated for a bit before ultimately saying yes. He told me that he did not want to help Felix. But since I asked for help, he would do me this

favor.

I thanked Matthew and told him that I would repay him this favor whenever he needed my help. He asked how'd I repay him. I told him that I could do anything except marry him.

He chuckled and said that if I wasn't willing to marry him, he wouldn't need anything else and he'd let me be indebted to him forever. He said that perhaps one day, if he could figure something out, he'd let me know. I said yes.

I couldn't care less. I owed Matthew a favor and eventually, I'd repay it. I needed to help Felix first. The rest could wait.

Chapter 360

I worked hard every day. I scoured the internet for medical journals and consulted specialists on various platforms,

Yet life was often very cruel. Not all hard work would pay off.

A surprising turn of events could lead to disastrous results.

That day, I was queuing up at the cafeteria to get my lunch. I then heard people saying that someone was trying to jump off the building in the neighborhood across the campus. A lot of students in the queue went to check out the scene.

My heart began pounding erratically. Fear seized me.

I grabbed a student rushing there and asked what happened. He told me that he didn't have the details either. He only asked me to check the school's forum.

I opened my phone frantically. There were a lot of comments on the forum thread. There was a photo on the pinned comment, the content of which almost made me faint.

I had no time to think. Despite my fear, I ran as fast as I could. Howling wind traveled to my

ears.

I had never run as fast as I was running now. I surpassed the nosy on-lookers, disregarded



the traffic light, and made a beeline for the scene.

When I arrived, the whole area was cordoned off. Several young officers were busy inflating the cushion. The man in the photo, Felix, was on the ledge on the sixth floor. The wind picked up his black shirt, and his hair swayed with the breeze.

I was shaken to the core. I yelled, “Felix, what are you doing? Go back inside” while charging

toward the staircase.

Another young policeman stopped me. Teary-eyed, I told him that Felix was my relative and

I wanted to save him.

I did mean it when I said I wanted to save him. Be it the inability to walk or blindness, as long as he lived, there was still hope.

But if he died, he would leave everyone with an abandoned puzzle. A puzzle that could not be solved. Colin and I would never be happy.

The policeman was very kind. He saw how earnest I was and escorted me to the sixth floor.

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The door was wide open. The guards monitoring the entrance communicated with the police officer and let me in.

Colin stood tall in the middle of the living room. He was a mess. His eyes were bloodshot, and he looked out of wits, bordering on a mental breakdown. Still, he suppressed his

emotions and asked Felix to get down and talk it out gently.

Felix was his only brother. He had to be in so much pain now.

But Felix was manic. He only kept repeating, "Leave! Let me die!"

It was a windy day. At this altitude, the wind was even stronger. Felix's leg that dangled over the edge swayed in the wind. Every time his pant leg fluttered, my heart leaped.

He would die if he jumped from the sixth floor.

I could only stand on the sideline, too afraid to make a sound. Looking at Felix, who was inches away from death, I feared that my voice would trigger him. It might cause a tragedy

with irreversible results.

Colin noticed me and shook his head, cautioning me not to speak.

But the moment he turned his head, I saw the pain, misery, and powerlessness in his eyes. stayed in my mind.

I thought I had already grown numb, but my heart felt like someone just stabbed a knife into it. Pain emanated from my chest and coursed through my body.

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Colin was facing a dilemma. On one hand, it was the love of his life. On the other hand, it was his younger brother. Giving up either one of them would cause irreparable damage to his

soul.

How was he supposed to choose?