

Standing before Love Chapter 332

She should have been the one to be in Tony's arms, but Myra had to come along and take everything away from her. In retrospect, she should have followed him back to Bradford City months ago, but she hadn't thought that he would fall head over heels for another woman within such a short span of time.

Gemma wanted to clench her fists, but a sharp ache tore through her arms whenever she moved her fingers. The injuries on her hands were already grave on their own, but any movement that required so much as an ounce of strength was enough to send a paralyzing pain through her bones.

She gritted her teeth. If he hadn't provoked her the other day, she wouldn't have lost control and rammed into him with her car, thereafter crashing into the oncoming truck. She wouldn't have ended up in such a sorry state.

A fire burned in her eyes as she dwelled on those and at the thought of the video she had just received, she grew even more outraged.

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Tony and Myra had kept their evening stroll brief and before long, they headed back into the room.

Along the way, she brought up the incident with Elsie from earlier that day. "Do you think Elsie was the one who gave Kris the drug? And if that was the case, does that mean the secretary in my office suffered a miscarriage after accidentally taking the drug that was meant for me?"

Tony hadn't wanted to let Myra learn the truth, given how traumatizing it could be for her to learn that someone was coming after her and the child she was carrying. Heaving a sigh of resignation, he squeezed her hand gently and replied, "I didn't want you to know about it, but now that you do, please don't be afraid or stressed out by it."

He paused, then added softly, "We found Kris' fingerprints on the lemon and the reason why I haven't exposed her yet is because I'm saving this information for future occasions." Worried that she would read too much into the situation, he kissed her forehead and continued speaking. "There's nothing for you to worry about. I won't let Kris get away so easily after all the things she's done. Besides, even if I don't go after her, fate has a way of

getting rid of the wicked. When all these come to an end, I'll make sure she pays for all her crimes."

A harsh gleam flashed in the pitch black of his eyes as he said that.

Tony thought about how Myra had so narrowly dodged a bullet. If the timing had been off by a second, she would have been the one to ingest the spiked lemonade and she would have been the one to suffer the miscarriage instead of her secretary. The child that they had only just conceived would be lost and at that thought, he simply could not contain his rage.

He wanted nothing more than to kill Kris wherever she stood, but knowing that she could still be of use, he decided to spare her for now.

Myra, on the other hand, nodded after hearing what he had said. "I trust you."

She agreed that there was no reason for her to worry. After all, Tony had his own way of dealing with those things and he had the brains to make sure things turned out just as he had planned. "But, what if Elsie refuses to leave Bradford City?" she asked hesitantly.

"She has to leave," he answered stoically before he frowned. His expression softened when he turned to look at Myra. "She's not like Sasha. If we spare her, she's only going to bite back even harder and we won't know what she's going to do next. I can promise to spare Sasha, but I can't do the same for Elsie. She must leave Bradford City, no matter what."

He looked grim as he thought, I've had enough sleepless nights and it's time to put an end to her shenanigans.

When Myra heard how resolute Tony sounded, she decided to let the matter drop. She knew that he had a knack for getting what he wanted.

Presently, as they walked past Gemma's suite, they could no longer hear her shrill cries and hysterical ramblings, which meant she had given up after failing to get her way.

Not long after they had returned to the suite, Leo hurried into the room to set up Tony's work documents and laptop. Apparently, Tony was insistent on taking care of things at work despite his injuries.

As he set himself to work in what had quickly become his makeshift office, Myra reached out to take her phone from him. Following her pregnancy, he had been keeping her phone away from her on the days when they were together. She was about to unlock her phone to text Estelle when it rang with an incoming call.

Myra couldn't react in time to answer the sudden call, but it ended within seconds.

As she frowned, she couldn't help but feel as though something was off. Calls from unfamiliar numbers had been recently pestering her, but she had never been the type to entertain those calls. Presently, as though the person knew that she would not answer, the stranger who had called her texted her instead after hanging up, in which there was a video that had to be downloaded.

Myra clicked into the video and downloaded it using the Wi-Fi in the hospital.

She glanced over at Tony, who was buried in his work. Leo, on the other hand, was reporting information to him every once in a while. Upon seeing that, Myra rose from her seat and headed out of the door before she walked toward one of the windows that ran along the corridor as she clicked into the downloaded video.

As soon as the video was pulled up, she immediately recognized the two persons in the footage—Tony and Gemma.

The two appeared to be in conflict and from the looks of it, things were taking a hostile turn. Within seconds, he reached out to clasp his hand around her throat and there was an obvious strength in his hold as he choked her. He was regarding her with an icy look, impassive despite the ferocity in his grip while her face scrunched up with pain as she struggled to breathe.

Myra watched the video with widened eyes, her own breath hitching even though she knew that Gemma was currently fine and resting in the room at the other end of the hallway. Nonetheless, it wasn't until she saw Tony release Gemma that she slowly let out a sigh of relief.

After watching the short clip, she found that she had broken into cold sweat within the brief minute during which the video had played.

She drew in a deep breath, and after what seemed like a long while, her heart began to slow into a steady pace once more.

However, the next moment, her phone rang once more. This time, she did not evade it, and instead picked it up with a steely look in her eyes.

“I’m assuming you’ve seen the video.” Gemma’s mocking voice was filled with hatred as she sneered at Myra from the other end of the line.

Myra’s grip tightened on her phone. “What the hell do you want?”

“Nothing at all. I’m just really angry about what happened to me and I’m planning to forward this video to the press. I think they would be very intrigued to see what that man did to me before he threatened to press charges against me for reckless driving,” Gemma answered insouciantly, sounding as though she couldn’t care less about this. Myra, on the other hand, was bristling at her words.

She gritted her teeth as she hissed, “Tony only did what he needed to get you to back off, Gemma. He didn’t even hurt you. Even if you were to send that video to the press, it’s not going to affect him in any way!”

“Well, why are you getting so worked up then?” Gemma shrieked.

Myra flinched as the girl’s shrill voice painfully pierced her eardrums. Having walked a bit of distance away from Tony’s ward, she lowered her voice and asked through gritted teeth, “So, what the hell is it that you want?”

“What do I want?” Gemma repeated, her voice raising to a sharp octave. “Don’t you know what I want? I want you to leave Tony and get rid of that child you’re carrying! I want you to stay away from him for good!” she screamed maniacally and Myra could hear the echo that followed. From the sound of it, the girl was shouting at her from within a restroom.

“What you want is impossible!” Myra retorted without hesitation.

“Impossible?” Gemma was outraged at Myra’s refusal. “It looks like you don’t love Tony that much after all! You’re only after his family’s wealth and status because you don’t even love him enough to make this sacrifice for him! And yet there you are, acting as though you’ve fallen deep for him! I knew it! How could you be in love with him after knowing him for less than a few months?”

“You’re wrong,” Myra answered, suddenly seized with an odd sense of calm. “Gemma, if I truly love Tony, I would stick with him through thick and thin. I

know how much I mean to him. If I leave him, it's only going to break his heart. Why would I put him through that kind of pain?"

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"You kept saying that you like Tony and you love him but the truth is, you only want to possess him. You don't care if he likes you or if he can accept you, all you want is him! You don't love him at all and you only love yourself!"

Myra clutched the phone in her hand. "You pushed him so hard that he lost his reasoning and strangled you, and you caused him to hate you even more. Gemma, you were the one who brought yourself to where you are now. Every time you try to harm someone, you end up hurting yourself. Just stop it." Myra took a deep breath and her expression was stern. "If you stop with what you are doing now, you may not need to leave Bradford City and everything can still return to the way it was—"

"Shut up!" Before Myra could finish, Gemma interrupted her and she yelled, "Do you think that your words can make me back off? I love Tony and I want to be with him! This is how my love is! The reason he grew to hate me is because of you and your dirty tricks, you b*tch! Why can't you just die already?"

Her words made Myra so angry that the latter's chest started heaving vigorously.

Gemma is like a madwoman and words just cannot get through her thick skull! Myra gripped her phone tightly while flames of anger raged inside her.

"You are unwilling to leave Tony, right? Okay, then; I have given you a chance and it is you who rejected it, Myra! You shall repent in front of the elders of the Hart Family and confess to them how you love the treasured grandson of the Hart Family!"

With that, Gemma hung up without giving Myra a chance to respond.

Myra was able to imagine what Gemma might do when she lost her reasoning. With her brows tightly knitted, she bit her lip and dialed her number, but the person on the other side had switched off her phone.

A sense of foreboding shrouded Myra. She tried to call Gemma two more times but the woman's phone was still off, which confirmed her suspicion that the latter was really enraged this time.

Feeling flustered, Myra dashed toward Tony's ward and barged into the room without knocking. Leo was reporting some work-related issues to Tony in the room, and her sudden and panicked intrusion stunned them. They then turned to look at her.

Myra's mouth parted and just as she was about to say something, Tony's phone suddenly rang. He glanced at the screen and gestured at her to wait for a moment before picking up the call.

"Hello." His voice was deep and pleasant.

The person on the other end of the line said something, which caused his expression to fall.

At the same time, Leo and Myra's phone rang urgently.

Myra, who could guess what had happened, glanced at her phone screen and realized that Tony might not need her to inform him about the incident at all. So, she left the room while biting her lip and picked up Estelle's call.

"What happened, Myra? The 'Weekly News' just posted a video of a little over a minute that showed Tony strangling Gemma! Although the video was enjoyable for me to watch, it shouldn't be uploaded on the Internet!" Estelle spoke really fast but Myra was able to hear the voices of other people at the film set. Feeling flustered, she bit her lip. "It was Gemma... She gave me a call earlier and used the video to threaten me to leave Tony and abort my pregnancy, but I rejected her."

"You would have been mad if you had agreed to her terms! It's merely a stupid video, yet she thought to use it to threaten you to leave Tony and abort your child? She must have a screw loose!" Upon hearing what Myra had to say, Estelle was enraged. "Fine; forget it. I only wanted to ask about the video. Anyway, it's a trivial matter and the Hart Family will know how to solve it. You don't need to overthink this tiny matter. It's nothing important to the Hart Family."

She intentionally made it sound insignificant for fear that Myra might crack her head over this. "Speaking of which, next time if you go for a pregnancy check-

up, remember to take me along with you. I want to become the child's godmother, so I have to make early preparations, understand?"

Myra knew that Estelle did not want her to worry so she nodded. However, she suddenly realized that the latter could not see her, so she hummed in response.

Estell knew that at this moment, Myra probably would not be able to listen to her anymore, so she hung up.

After the call ended, Myra was about to turn around to return to the ward. However, she raised her head and saw two bodyguards standing right outside a ward, which was located four or five wards away from Tony's. At that moment, Gemma was currently standing between the bodyguards while looking at her with a sneer on her face. The corner of her lips curved upward into a smug as she mouthed at Myra without making any sound, "Let's see what you will do now!"

Myra was angry but she did not go over to confront Gemma head-on. She was not so stupid as to fight with the latter in person when she should be avoiding the currently-insane Gemma when she met her.

She returned to the ward but the atmosphere within was unlike how she had imagined.

Leo continued to report the work in a professional manner while Tony was multitasking. With his head lowered, Tony looked at the computer screen while reviewing the documents and at the same time, he listened to what Leo had to say.

Upon seeing this scene, the gloom in Myra's heart subsided a little.

When Tony saw her coming into the ward, he stopped his task at hand and shot Leo a look. Leo instantly understood him and stopped with his work as well, then greeted Myra before leaving the ward.

Tony waved at her, and she hesitated for a moment before walking over to him while biting her lip. She had a hunch that Tony might have found out about that incident, but his calm reaction made her feel a little nervous. "Tony..."

Upon seeing her expression, he impatiently asked her to sit on his bed.

She sat in front of him and mumbled hesitantly, “Gemma called me just now...”

“Did she threaten you that she will upload the video on the Internet if you don’t leave me?” Truth was, Tony was not surprised when she mentioned Gemma. Instead, he seemed calm and composed as he said that to Myra with a slight smile on his face.

“How did you know?” Her eyes widened in surprise as she stared at the man before her.

He raised an eyebrow and asked, “Did you agree to what she said, then?”

“No.” She tugged the corner of his hospital gown. “Estelle told me that Gemma sent the video to the reporter of a magazine named ‘Weekly News’, and the video has been posted online.”

Although Tony was the director of the Hart Group and not a celebrity or public figure, he was more well-known than some celebrities to some extent, especially to the citizens of Bradford City.

In the video, the man strangled Gemma forcefully, almost suffocating her before he released his grip. It was not something he should be proud of and if the public knew about this, it would affect both Tony’s and the Hart Group’s reputation. On a more serious note, he might get himself involved in an investigation if he was charged with attempted murder.

Myra was worried as she was afraid that some keyboard warriors might steer the public opinion to a direction that would put Tony in an unfavorable situation, especially with Gemma actively playing a part in it.

“I’m glad that you didn’t agree with her.” Tony seemed calm and he was not as tense as she imagined. Instead, he gazed at her and chuckled. He was an incredibly good-looking man to begin with, but he usually wore a poker face when outsiders were around. When he smiled at that moment, his facial features seemed to soften and become gentle, which put her in a daze. Tony then took her into his embrace as he murmured, “Take a look at this—”

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After taking her into his embrace, he used his injured hand to tap open a video in his phone.

There were two people in the video—Gemma and Tony.

However, it was different from the one that Gemma had shown Myra. That video began with Tony strangling her but in this video, the whole process, as well as the other scenes, were shown—Gemma tried to seduce Tony and refused to let him leave, giving him no choice but to strangle her before he let her go. After that, Tony's car was about to drive off but Gemma was seen stomping on the pedal in an attempt to run into his car. To make matters worse, the video that Gemma had shown Myra was soundless, but there was audio in this video that Tony showed her. Therefore, Myra was able to hear every single word that Gemma said.

“Tony, I only want to help you to relieve your needs. I know that Myra is now pregnant, and you... you... Now that she is pregnant, you must be having a hard time holding back your desires. I have thought things through and I know that you like her. I won't come between the two of you, but I just wish to continue to admire you in secret and to sometimes appear by your side when you need me. I can do everything that Myra can do for you. I know that you won't be satisfied with only one woman, Tony. A man like you can't possibly be content to have just one woman. I won't ruin your family; I just want you to occasionally be with me...”

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Myra's face flushed red with anger when she heard Gemma's words. After a while, she growled in fury, “She's so shameless!”

Gemma's daring act had enraged Myra, causing the latter to suddenly wrap her arms around Tony's neck and pull him down to her. She bit on his lips hard, as if she was marking the man to claim her territory.

Her sudden actions caused Tony to fall into a fleeting daze. When he finally returned to his senses, a peculiar gleam flashed across his eyes and he captured her lips with his.

Myra, who had snuggled up to him, allowed herself to lie above him when he caught her lips.

Gemma must be dreaming! She actually planned to hook up with my man when I'm pregnant? Myra's eyes were glowing with fury but deep within, she was disdainful of Gemma. She thinks that I can't satisfy my man when I'm

pregnant? Then, her daring thought gave her a fright. When she finally returned to her senses, Tony had already let go of her.

His eyes were dark and bottomless and they were filled with a sincere smile. He suddenly pecked her lips and chuckled. "You were jealous, weren't you?"

Myra snorted and glared at the video in dissatisfaction. Gemma is really annoying! My man's attitude toward her was rather rude, yet she still made a shameless request by asking me to leave Tony!

She bit her lip as she mumbled, "I wasn't jealous because I know that you won't fall for other women."

He raised an eyebrow. "Confident, eh?"

"You said that yourself!"

Tony chuckled and pressed her head against his chest. "Don't worry about Gemma's matter. I know what to do to resolve this issue."

"By using the video earlier?" Myra pondered over it and continued, "Will your plan go smoothly?"

"Are you doubting me?" He raised a brow.

"It's not like that." She shook her head. A lot of things had happened lately and it caused her to feel on edge all the time. It was as if there was always something else waiting for them after they resolved one thing, and it was very annoying.

"Will Gemma leave after this?" she asked again.

After all, the video had been posted. Soon, all sorts of suspicions and rumors would begin to spread, and there was no telling on what action the Walton Family would take against them.

The Walton Family is really useless. They had agreed to send Gemma away from here to avoid escalating the matter. Yet, they condoned her doing this sort of thing!

Myra was quite irritable these days, which might possibly be due to her pregnancy.

She rolled around in his arms but failed to calm down, so Tony patted her back and whispered, “Gemma won’t be able to leave this time.”

His voice was gentle but Myra was able to hear the coldness within, and she knew him well enough to know that he would not be soft-hearted and let Gemma off the hook this time; it would be the exact opposite this time, as that woman had really angered him.

A complex feeling washed over Myra as she played with Tony’s slender fingers. For some reason, Gemma could never understand that every time she kicked up a fuss, she would only send herself deeper into the abyss. Yet, she insisted on making more trouble over and over again.

“I’m tired.” One minute Myra felt tense and the next she felt relieved; the rapidly changing turns of events made her feel sleepy.

She hugged Tony’s waist and refused to let go, and he had no intention to ask her to do so as well. He only had her change her position so that she could sleep more comfortably.

When Leo entered the ward, Myra had already fallen asleep and Tony was handling company-related matters.

He darted a look at Myra before softly saying to Tony, “Director Hart, regarding the next steps...”

“You can handle everything that is going to happen tomorrow; I’m sure you know what you should say,” Tony instructed calmly.

Leo straightened his back and hummed in response, feeling a little excited as he couldn’t wait to see the Walton Family being humiliated.

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With regard to the video incident, Myra had misunderstood the Walton Family this time—the Walton Family did not encourage Gemma’s actions; it was done of her own will.

When the Walton Family saw the video and learnt about the incident from the person-in-charge of the magazine, they were dumbfounded. They were totally clueless about the incident. When they saw the video that was posted online

and the article that the magazine had published under Gemma's instruction, they felt as if their entire world went dark.

Gemma's emotions had been unstable due to the incidents that happened recently, so it was normal for her to do something extreme. However, the question here was how she managed to get hold of the video. At that time, she blacked out after the accident, so she shouldn't have any way to obtain the video from the Hart Family. Nevertheless, the most pressing matter now was to resolve the issue. Now that the video had been posted online and unanimous voices of condemnation against Tony had risen on the Internet, how were they going to calm the Hart Family's wrath?

First of all, the Walton Family had to deny to the Hart Family that the video was posted by them. Hence, Old Master Walton swallowed his pride and gave Sebastian a call. However, when the latter picked up the call, he sneered at the former, "Old Master Walton, I had the intention to resolve the issue regarding the accident but I never expected that the Walton Family would be so insincere. Your actions behind our backs seemed to be different from what you revealed to us on the surface. Not only did you post the video online, you even threatened my granddaughter-in-law to abort my great-grandson. Do you really think that the Hart Family is someone you can easily mess with?"

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"What are you going to tell me now? That the video was not released by the Walton Family?" Sebastian raged in a sharp tone without any consideration for Old Master Walton's pride.

The latter was so angry that his face flushed red in anger and at the same time, he was at a loss for words. Apparently, they had found out that it was Gemma who released the video to the public, which indicated that she had no intention to make peace with the Hart Family.

Before Old Master Walton could even say a word, Sebastian directly hung up the call and switched off his phone.

Old Master Walton was so pissed that his chest heaved vigorously. After the call was hung up, he hit his cane so hard on the floor that it snapped.

"Dad, how was it?" Samuel worriedly asked from the side.

“What else can have happened? Gemma has gotten herself in big trouble this time!” Old Master Walton growled.

He did not expect that his granddaughter would kick up such a huge mess when they only took their eyes off her for one second. The Hart Family had made themselves clear that they would not let the Walton Family off the hook, so no matter what the Hart Family had in mind for them, they had no choice but to face the difficulty head-on. Fortunately, the video that had been released now was to their advantage, which means they had to make sure that everything was in hand before the Hart Family started to take control of the situation.

Gideon’s initial plan was to have the magazine company take down the video and delete the article, but Old Master Walton had something else in mind. “Put out word about the accident and say that Gemma was frightened when Tony threatened to kill her, which was why she did the wrong thing in a fit of mental confusion. Let the public know about her injuries too. We will portray her as a weak lady and stress on the point that she was frightened. Also, describe the incident in a way that would make Tony’s injuries seem as if it is nothing serious. All in all, we have to clear Gemma’s name and we must never let the Hart Family take control of the situation.”

Old Master Hart pressed his thin lips together, his expression stern.

Mrs. Walton was frightened and she mumbled a question at him, “Does Gemma still have to leave Bradford City?”

“Is there even such a need? We basically launched a war with the Hart Family.” Sarcasm and frustration spread across his face as he muttered, “This time, Gemma can only pray for her to survive through this!”

A storm approached in the night. The Hart Family seemed as calm as usual, doing whatever they usually do, while the Walton Family seemed to be sitting on pins and needles for fear that they would miss out on anything. On the other hand, Gemma was happily reading the negative remarks made by the netizens about Tony, while Tony and Myra were quietly sleeping together in each other’s embrace.

The next morning, Sebastian woke up early in the morning. When he went downstairs, the housekeeper immediately took notice that he had put on a formal suit today, and he looked fresh and energetic.

She walked up to him. “Old Master Hart, I have prepared the soup and porridge that you instructed me to make last night. I have placed them on the table in the dining room.”

He hummed in response. After having breakfast, he went to the hospital with Lisa to send two sets of breakfast over.

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Myra cleverly did not immediately go online to read the news when she woke up early in the morning, as she knew the news must be filled with unpleasant curses that were targeted at Tony.

Sebastian and Lisa sent breakfast to them early in the morning, and Tony and Myra had a simple breakfast. Today was the day Tony was going to be discharged from the hospital. As his recovery had been going smoothly, he applied to continue his recovery away from hospital, and the hospital would regularly send doctors and nurses over to him to check his condition.

Myra knew that he was going to return to the company today, so she intended to follow along, while Sebastian and Lisa tagged along as well.

When they left the hospital, the situation in reality was, in fact, slightly better than what she had imagined.

Currently, there were many reporters piling at the entrance of the hospital. Before the few of them even reached the lobby, the reporters seemed to have the urge to dash up to them, but they were stopped by a large group of security guards who had been stationed outside to control the situation. Nevertheless, Myra and the others were still able to hear the reporters' questions through the rows of security.

“Director Hart, what is your opinion on the video that was posted on the Internet last night? Someone accused you of being violent and you almost strangled Miss Walton to death because of some disagreement. Can you tell us if it is true?”

“Director Hart, it was said that the judiciary has intervened in this matter. Would you like to give a comment on that?”

“Director Hart, both you and Miss Walton were involved in a car accident that night. Rumor has it that Miss Walton deliberately ran into your car; is this true?”

Due to the power and influence of the Hart Family, the reporters’ words were not too harsh to the ears. One was an industry player from another city, while the other one was a local player—everyone was able to tell which party had a stronger background between the Hart and Walton Family. Therefore, before the truth was revealed, it would not be wise to offend the Hart Family.

Sebastian, Lisa, as well as Myra were beside Tony. Upon seeing that they would not be getting any answers from him, they targeted the three of them instead.

“Miss Stark, someone pointed out that Director Hart and Miss Walton were a couple at first, but they broke up because you came between them; is that true?” When Tony heard this question, an almost unnoticeable frown appeared on his face and his gaze landed on Leo, who was standing off to one side.

Leo adjusted his glasses and nodded before calmly explaining to the reporters, “Director Hart understands that everyone is eager to know what happened recently. However, there are certain things that are merely baseless rumors, so we hope that everyone won’t fall for them. Today, we will hold a press conference at the Hart Group at 9.30 AM, and we hope that everyone will attend. We won’t be entertaining anyone now, so please excuse us.”

The reporters were excited as they could sense that something big was about to be announced.

Nonetheless, the person-in-charge of ‘Weekly News’ was slightly anxious.

He had sided with the Walton Family at first. Although they had just arrived at Bradford City, their abilities should not be underestimated. Therefore, when they decided to acquire his magazine company, he immediately agreed. It was normal for the Walton Family to acquire a rather influential magazine company to promote their presence when they had just returned to Bradford City. However, when things came to this stage, he was able to tell that not only did the Walton Family completely offend the Hart Family, they were, in fact, no match for the latter as well. When he finally discovered this, he was able to predict what would happen to his company. Although the magazine

company had been acquired by the Walton Family, it was still his life's hard work and it would break his heart to see it go down like this, but there was nothing he could do now.

Soon, the few people got into the car and headed off to Hart Group.

When they arrived at the office building, Tony entered the building with Myra following beside him.

They entered the lift, and Tony and Myra parted ways with Sebastian and Lisa. The two elders went straight to the place where the press conference would be held, while Myra returned to Tony's office with him.

He noticed the slight dark circles under her eyes and he knew that she had been unable to sleep well last night. Hence, he held her hands and whispered, "Get some sleep in the lounge later. After everything ends, I will come and see you, alright?"

"No." She shook her head and rejected his offer. After the incident, she was determined to stand by him no matter what would happen.

Tony knew that he would not be able to persuade her otherwise when she was being stubborn, so he just let her be.

After freshening up, the two of them headed over to the meeting room where the press conference had already begun.

When Tony and Myra entered the room, the video that was playing on the large LCD screen happened to reach the scene of the car accident.

Despite having seen the scene on Tony's phone last night, she still felt a tightness in her chest when she watched it again now. If Tony had not been able to react fast enough at that time, he might be suffering from Gemma's injuries now and he would not be able to be discharged so soon. Upon having such thoughts, her gaze involuntarily darkened.

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Before the video was played, the reporters had only watched the video that Gemma released to the public, which was only part of the video that was being played now. Gemma had removed the scenes where she tried to seduce Tony and the car accident that happened after that.

When the complete video was revealed to the crowd, they could not help but to look at one another, only to find the same surprised look in everyone's eyes—the entire situation turned out to be something unexpected.

First of all, Gemma had attempted to seduce Tony in the basement car park but her repetitive attempts pissed him off. Tony had tried to ask her to let go of him, but she took things even further by saying those shameless words—those were words that should never come out from the mouth of a decent young lady of an influential family. Her actions enraged Tony, which caused the latter to strangle her, but it was not his intention to kill her. From the earlier scene, everyone could tell that he was merely trying to frighten or intimidate her. Then, the two of them got into their respective cars. Tony drove out of the basement car park and a seemingly mentally unstable Gemma stomped on the pedal and attempted to run into his car. Fortunately, at the most critical moment, Tony noticed that her car was going to slam into his from behind, so he hastily stepped on the gas and steered the vehicle to the side. In the end, although he managed to avoid the car behind from banging his, he could not stop his car from ramming into the truck in front.

As soon as Tony and Myra entered the room, a security guard escorted them to their seats in the front.

The moment they took their seats, a reporter stood up and asked anxiously, "Director Hart, we have just watched the video. The video which was released on the Internet last night has been maliciously edited by someone, and there is actually more to the video. You were initially accused of being a violent person but you are, in fact, the victim here. Do you know who was the one who posted the video last night?"

Truth was, everyone was clear about the whole situation now—the video that was uploaded on the Internet last night was probably the act of the Walton Family. However, as they did not possess any evidence to support their suspicion, everyone could only look at Tony in hopes that he would reveal the truth.

Tony's right arm was still in a cast and it was obvious that he might have a fractured bone, while his left arm was also densely bandaged. Other than that, he had a few minor scratches on his face. Although the condition of other parts of his body under his clothes could not be seen, everyone was able to tell that he must have some injuries on his body too.

Tony glanced at the person who asked the question before casually looking at the crowd with his cold, emotionless eyes. Then, he calmly replied, "I don't know who was the person who posted the video."

He could feel Myra's body stiffen, so he held her hand with his left hand under the desk in an attempt to give her some comfort.

Another reporter immediately asked in an impatient voice, "It was said that the video last night was posted by Miss Walton. She failed to win your heart so when she saw you showing affection to Miss Stark, it triggered her and caused her to lose her sanity and do all sorts of crazy acts—not only did she deliberately run into your car, she even preemptively released the video so that you would be condemned by the public. What is your comment on this?"

However, Tony remained impassive. "I am unsure whether the video was posted by Miss Walton. The reason I gathered everyone here today and revealed the whole video is solely to clear up the misunderstanding. Of course, I indeed strangled Miss Walton, but it was not because I had lost my mind or I wanted to kill her. Nevertheless, I think that I should make a confession to my fiancée in front of everyone."

After saying that, the curve playing by his lips became more obvious and his expression seemed much gentler. He turned to look at the stunned Myra with overflowing gentleness in his eyes as he murmured, "There are too many rumors spreading around and they have caused some discomfort to my fiancée. Before I met my fiancée, I have never had any romantic relationship with any woman and I have never fallen in love with anyone either. Myra Stark will be my only woman in my whole life."

His profound feelings for Myra were conveyed to her unabashedly as he looked straight at her. The crowd seemed to be stupefied by his sudden confession. When the reporters finally returned to their senses, the sounds of shutters going off echoed throughout the room. It was earth-shattering news—the heir to a business empire, Tony Hart, confessed his love to the young mistress of the Stark Family, Myra Stark, in public. He admitted that she was the only one he loved and would ever want. This sort of romance was clearly what the reporters loved, and this sort of gossip would make their female readers scrambling for their magazines.

Myra blushed gradually and her clear eyes were filled with emotion. With her hand in his, she could feel happiness blooming in her heart.

“Therefore, the rumor that you were once in a relationship with Miss Walton before Miss Stark came between the two of you, which then caused Miss Walton to do crazy acts due to extreme sorrow, is actually not real?” Another reporter quickly made sense of the whole situation. Tony publicly declared that he had never liked any woman and never had any relationship with another woman, which indicated that Gemma was never in a relationship with Tony. In other words, the rumor that started to spread last night was all a sham. According to the rumor, Gemma had been dumped by Tony, which caused her to choose to end both their lives out of extreme grievance in order to take revenge on him.

“Miss Walton is just the younger sister of a former good friend of mine when I started my business. I’m not exactly close to her,” he replied impassively.

They aren’t even close... It then dawned on them that it was Gemma’s one-sided love all along—she could not win Tony’s heart so she intended to destroy him. That deranged woman sure is terrifying.

“Director Hart, do you have any comments about the video and article published on the ‘Weekly News’? There were a lot of assumptions made in the article based on the limited information that they had, so the news that was reported were not real and it has caused a huge impact to your reputation and that of the Hart Group. Also, rumor has it that the ‘Weekly News’ has been acquired by the Walton Group a few days ago...” one of the reporters stood up and said.

Although there was no evidence that the video was released by the Walton Family, it was a fact that ‘Weekly News’, the first company that published the video, had been acquired by them.

It was very apparent that Tony’s expression darkened slightly when he heard what the reporter said. Although it was unnoticeable to the crowd, that was not the case for Myra, so she held his hand tightly. However, Tony suddenly curled up his lips slightly, forming an arc that nobody could tell whether it was a smile or a sneer. “The lawyers of the Hart Group have started handling this matter. The ‘Weekly News’ made a lot of inaccurate statements, so the Hart Group will file a lawsuit against them for defamation.”

“How about Miss Walton?” another reporter asked. “In the video, she recklessly rammed into your car. This is an incident of deliberate assault. Director Hart, do you have any comments on this?”

Tony's gaze was deep. "I have warned Miss Walton before this. Although she hurt me, I'm willing to let it slide for the sake of my friend. However, she repetitively harassed my fiancée, which is something I find unacceptable. I will hand the matter over to the police. As an adult, one should know what he or she is doing, and there are certain behaviors that shouldn't be condoned over and over again. All of us have our limits."

With that, Tony had made himself very clear. He could no longer stand Gemma's ruthless behavior and would let the police handle the matter. His words expressed his, as well as the Hart Family's, protectiveness over Myra. In addition, after the accident, Tony might have considered letting the incident about the car accident slide, but Gemma's repetitive harassment toward Myra had made him lose his patience.

In other words, after the accident, not only did Gemma not keep a low profile, she even arrogantly attempted to split the lovers?

Upon hearing this, everyone could not help but look down upon Gemma even more. She sure is a strange person for having such a strong intention to become someone else's mistress!

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All of a sudden, the sounds of keyboards tapping away and camera shutters going off filled the room.

Soon after that, the details from the Hart Group press conference became published; naturally, the response that ensued was quite significant.

Originally, Miss Walton, who was allegedly the victim, the weaker party, and the person abandoned, suddenly turned out to be a despicable home-wrecker, a lunatic, and a vicious woman. From then on, there were all sorts of negative tags attached to her.

Perhaps it was because everyone didn't expect the distinguished Young Lady of the Walton family to be such a shameless woman. The words that came out of her mouth were quite explicit, after all.

"I just want to give you some comfort during her pregnancy... Now that she is pregnant, you must be having a hard time holding back your desires. I just wish to continue to admire you in secret and to sometimes appear by your side when you need me. I won't ruin your family; I just want you to

occasionally be with me... Myra's only attributes are her skills in bed and the way she pleasures you. As for me, I'm still a virgin; I only care about you so I'm quite sure I'll be comparable to her. I—"

Gemma had completely twisted values that were totally beyond what was acceptable. It was quite hard to believe that this usually haughty and aloof woman had in fact chased after a married man and requested to be his mistress.

On the contrary, the director of Hart Group, Tony, had a great mindset, which was evident from his words.

"Even if you were the last woman left on Earth, I would still choose to stay celibate. If you dare to bother Myra again, I won't hesitate to show you in advance the consequences of crossing my path."

Everyone present could clearly sense his loyalty toward the one he loved. Most of the women who heard this sighed in admiration, and they were envious and jealous of Myra but disdainful of Gemma's actions. This was such a stark contrast, resulting in the crowd being even more disgusted and scornful of the latter's actions. At that point, all of the hard-built, positive framework of the Walton Family from the previous night came crashing down without any warning, and there were endless negative comments directed at Gemma as well as the Walton Family on the Internet.

...

Just then, the atmosphere in Gemma's room was significantly tense and one could practically cut the tension with a knife.

Everyone from the Walton Family, except for Gemma, had assumed that there were only two recordings that fateful night at the underground parking lot of the Stark Group. One was regarding the conflict between her and Tony, and the other was the recording of her driving her car into Tony's. Other than that, they didn't expect anything else. However, much to their dismay, Gemma had in fact tried to seduce Tony; as for the words she had said, Edward was practically about to blow a gasket after hearing it. How can a foolish girl like her even be a part of the Walton Family? Doesn't she know that there are security cameras in the underground parking lot?

As soon as everyone in the Walton Family saw the negative comments left by strangers on the Internet, their expressions darkened.

“Grandpa—” After last night’s outburst, Gemma had initially gone back to her old ways of being reckless as she realized that her family had no qualms of indulging all her whims. However, after the full video recording was released and Tony’s words were made known to the public, Gemma was utterly stunned. During her impulsive outburst, she completely forgot about the fact that she had tried to seduce Tony prior to that or perhaps subconsciously, she didn’t think that there was anything wrong in her actions of seducing him.

It was only when the condemning comments from the Internet hit hard like waves crashing into her that she suddenly felt a sense of humiliation and resentment. Gemma finally came to the realization that she had brought massive trouble upon her family and this time, things were way worse than the previous incident of her running into Tony with her car. This incident indicated a massive flaw in her character and had implicated the whole Walton Family. As such, everyone in the family was also the subject of abuse by the general public.

“Grandpa, this isn’t my fault. Myra must have convinced Tony to do this! He wouldn’t have treated us like this based on his friendship with Gideon. It must be Myra’s idea to go against us, so she must have said something negative to make him take such actions.

Meanwhile on the other end, the Hart Group press conference was, in fact, a live stream event. At this moment, everyone watching could clearly hear the words that Tony mentioned to the press. He maintained his stance and insisted that he did not know the identity of the person who released that video recording; it also appeared that he wasn’t trying to put the blame on the Walton Family, but the latter were the ones that had gone overboard. Thus, Tony had no choice but to arrange for this press conference to take further action but in actual fact, he was intentionally targeting the Walton Family.

Based on the current circumstances, Tony clearly emerged as the victor. No one in the Walton Family had expected this situation to take place and they didn’t realize that the current negative public sentiments were detrimental to them. On the other hand, this situation was advantageous to the Hart Family, the Hart Group, Tony, as well as Myra.

This showed that the Hart Family had strong values of loyalty and Tony was a deeply affectionate person. Meanwhile, Myra was also the innocent party here.

As for the Walton Family, they were despicable and Gemma was utterly shameless.

“Gemma, even I can’t do anything much for you this time!” Edward clenched both of his hands tightly into fists and his shrewd eyes were full of aggression and struggle.

Momentarily stunned, Gemma became frightened after regaining her senses. “Grandpa, what do you mean? I didn’t do anything drastic. Besides, Tony’s perfectly fine! It’s only been a few days since the incident but he’s currently up and running; he’s also well enough to hold a press conference! What do you mean by you not being able to do anything to help me?”

“What do you mean he’s fine?” All of a sudden, Edward couldn’t control his anger and lashed out at her. Soon after that, he took a deep breath before narrowing his eyes and pursing his lips. “In the video, everyone can clearly see the whole situation of how you intentionally drove your car into Tony’s; there’s no need for him to explain anything. Then, you made another mistake by acting impulsively afterward when the Hart Family had already decided to forgive you. Right now, you should just leave the country and stay there until things cool down. Give it some time and I’ll arrange for you to come back once everything is fine.”

Edward’s vein pulsated vigorously out of anger upon noticing Tony’s actions. The latter was currently speaking on the live stream and he also turned around occasionally to smile at Myra. “Your reckless move of releasing footage of that video recording and threatening Myra has angered the Hart Family to the point where they no longer give any regard to our reputation. Their actions today are a blatant challenge to our family! Soon, the police will investigate this issue and by then, even if I beg the Hart Family for forgiveness, do you think they will let you off the hook?”

Gemma shivered in fear as soon as she heard Edward’s words. She had acted impulsively out of anger yesterday. As soon as she saw that video, she did not hesitate to give Myra a call and threaten her. However, Myra’s refusal angered Gemma further and she ended up releasing the footage online. At that moment, she did not stop to consider the consequences as she assumed that her family would settle the matter for her. Furthermore, she had always harbored the thought that her grandpa could settle the issue of her being forced to leave Bradford City but now, he chose not to do so because he had given up on her after her disfigurement. Out of resentment, she then made the

decision to create a fuss. However, looking at this current situation, Gemma suddenly felt a sense of panic.

“Grandpa—no, I mean... Gideon! Gideon, you’re quite close to Tony! If you go and seek his forgiveness, then he definitely wouldn’t be so harsh on me! You’ve been friends for six years so surely he’s going to give you some leeway?” Gemma suddenly turned to Gideon for help.

Currently, Gideon had a sullen expression on his face. He then turned around to look at his sister and sneered, “Do you think that Tony’s going to pay any heed to my word? All this while, he’s never bothered to listen to me. Besides, you’ve used me as a pretext for more than one occasion; don’t you think it’s too late for everything?”

“But—” Gemma had not realized the repercussions when she intentionally drove her car into someone.

Just then, it seemed that Samuel knew what she was about to say and he replied with a solemn voice, “Intention to harm is a serious crime and could lead to a maximum sentence of imprisonment for a few years or at least home detention. You assumed that Tony wasn’t badly hurt in that incident, but he’s already undergone a full examination and came out with a report for that. Currently, he’s just waiting for the final judgment.”

“What? How can my daughter be imprisoned!” Shelly frantically yelled out in a shrill voice and grabbed hold of Samuel’s left arm. “Samuel, you must find a way to help Gemma! You have to save our daughter!”

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Shelly had assumed that compensating the other party would be sufficient to resolve the issue, but she didn’t realize that the misdeed could possibly lead to imprisonment. She nearly fainted out of fright upon realizing the gravity of the situation.

Samuel’s eyes were dark and brooding. However, he didn’t make any promises to Shelly.

By then, Gemma realized the severity of the situation and sobbed in fright. “Grandpa, I’ve learned my lesson and I know it’s my fault! Please, Grandpa! I’m scared! Dad, Gideon, I don’t want to go to jail! Tony is completely unharmed and I don’t want to go to jail!” Gemma sobbed uncontrollably and

her tears soaked through the dressing on her face. Shelly, who was next to her, couldn't control her tears either.

"Stop all that crying! I'm well and alive here!" Feeling frustrated, Edward took another look at the live stream. Without a second thought, he switched it off with a cold expression on his face.

Gideon's current expression was thunderous. Everyone was busy yesterday and didn't have the time to keep an eye on Gemma, and she managed to ruin everything in one single day! Initially, we still had a relationship with the Hart Family. Although we were treading on thin ice, the Hart Family would not keep an eye on us and things were easier for everyone. However, that may not be the case now.

"Grandpa, Dad, I think the best idea right now is to get Gemma to make a public apology." Gideon had a sinister look in his eyes while saying this.

"What? You want me to apologize? No way; I don't want to apologize! Why should I? Why do I have to apologize each time something goes wrong?" As soon as Gemma heard that she had to apologize and it had to be a public one at that, she indignantly rejected Gideon's suggestion without even giving it any consideration.

After apologizing to Myra previously, I couldn't hold my head up in public for quite some time—that was such a humiliating experience. If I have to apologize publicly this time, I won't be able to appear in public anymore because I'll definitely be the topic of speculation wherever I go!

"Since you refuse to apologize, do you have another better idea?" Evidently, Edward had also reached the same conclusion. Upon hearing what Gemma had to say, he banged his newly-bought cane on the ground angrily, and it thudded as it hit the ground. "If you apologize, you might be able to salvage this situation but if you don't, we'll be stuck in this rut and the situation will only worsen. If you apologize publicly right now, even if the Hart Family eventually decides to lay charges against you, they definitely won't be too harsh on you!"

"But—"

"There are no buts; this is my final decision!" Edward announced and he thought to himself, Ever since I returned to Bradford City, nothing seems to be going smoothly. It's just one bad incident after another. He had an uneasy feeling and somehow sensed that something major was about to happen. He

then glanced at both his son and grandson with a somber expression and noted that their faces were equally gloomy. At this point, he felt his chest tighten out of anger. If Gemma's actions affect our other plans, then I definitely won't give her any more chances!

Immediately after that, Edward stomped out of the hospital room without giving Gemma and Shelly a chance to say anything.

As for Samuel, he was currently hounded by Shelly but he didn't succeed in getting Edward to change his mind. Besides, he was quite upset with Gemma as well. After instructing Shelly to keep a rein on Gemma and teach her some manners, Samuel furiously stomped out of the room.

Gideon was the last one to leave and his expression before he left the room was quite dark too. As soon as he stepped out of the room, he suddenly stopped the two bodyguards and asked, "Did Gemma behave any differently yesterday?"

Both of them looked at each other perplexedly but they didn't recall her doing anything out of the ordinary, so they shook their heads in unison. Gideon frowned even harder and he paused before asking, "Did she meet anyone? Did she talk to anyone at all?"

One of the bodyguards immediately replied, "Your girlfriend, Miss Kris, did pop by. Miss Gemma complained that she felt bored and wanted to talk to her so we let her into the room. Nothing else happened after that. Oh—afterward, Miss Gemma and Miss Stark, from the room in front, looked at each other from afar but nothing else happened." Truth was, both of them were clearly aware of everything that happened today and the day before but they were just employees, so all they had to do was to complete the tasks assigned to them; everything else was none of their business.

Gideon's face darkened slightly as soon as he heard their words. After instructing them to keep a close eye on Gemma, he turned around and walked away.

Meanwhile inside the ward, Gemma was in a foul mood. First, she had gotten the bad news of her disfigurement; then she was told that Tony was going to lay charges against her. Now, everyone was condemning her online and she was described as a horrible, evil b*tch. However, Tony and everyone else seems to be unaware that they've been duped by Myra's fake façade; she's the actual b*tch, not me!

“Mom, you must help me! Grandpa, Dad, and Gideon have all given up on me. Now that I’m disfigured, I’m no longer useful to them. Mom, you’re the only one who can help me now!” Gemma couldn’t control her trembling self and she looked on helplessly at Shelly.

Shelly had just regained her senses after that scolding from her husband and right now, all she could feel was a sense of anger and grievance. She stroked Gemma’s head tenderly and said, “Don’t you worry; I’ll definitely be on your side!”

She’s my darling girl and I’ve pampered her all my life, so no one can easily bully my daughter and get away with it! Shelly pondered over the situation and after comforting Gemma for a while, she left the room.

...

At the press conference on Tony and Myra’s end, Sebastian and Lisa were present to speak up for them as well. In the end, this press conference became more like a session for the Hart Family to publicly acknowledge Myra’s identity.

As soon as the press conference ended, Myra and Tony stood up. Some eagle-eyed members of the press noticed that despite Tony’s injured arm, he carefully held onto Myra’s hand. As for Myra, she had one hand in his while the other hand was unconsciously rubbing her belly. Since the revelation of their relationship, things had always been full of controversy between the two of them. However, those who noticed their interaction had a lightbulb moment upon seeing that.

There’s no need to care about the speculations of others because we can all tell how infatuated they are with each other. Throughout the whole press conference, Director Hart had an impassive look on his face except for when he turned to look at Miss Stark. It seems that all of his emotions are reserved solely for her and her alone; one would have to be blind to not see what was going on.

At that moment, everyone was at a loss for words as they recalled Gemma’s actions. It’s quite obvious that she’s the one who started the rumors about her and Director Hart being a couple and falsely accused Miss Stark of being the third party in their relationship. Such rumors might have its intended effect on some other man but obviously, Director Hart couldn’t care less about it, which is why she hit a dead end there. This is quite evident by the way Director Hart

stood up for Miss Stark and condemned Miss Walton during our press conference earlier.

However, Tony and Myra were completely oblivious to the speculations of those around them. Right now, Myra's felt that her feet were slightly numb after sitting down for such a long time. As such, Tony held her hand and pulled her to her feet. He then instinctively wrapped his arm around her waist before steering her toward the door.

Myra felt quite self-conscious in front of the crowd, especially with everyone holding onto video cameras or cameras, but she didn't resist his affection. However, she couldn't control her laughter upon seeing Sebastian's expression as he raised his brows at her. Two days ago, he quite scornfully told me that Tony's the only one who will jump to my rescue if I'm in trouble. However, he turned up in person today to stand up for me. Besides, he also mentioned that I'm the only person he acknowledges to take the position of his youngest granddaughter-in-law.

"What's so funny?" Tony lightly pinched her on the waist and whispered in her ear. He suddenly lowered his head and his refreshing scent, coupled with a trace of medicinal smell, washed over Myra. Her face flushed as she mumbled, "Nothing."

Tony raised his brows and darted in so close to her ear that he could practically nibble on it as he whispered, "I just confessed my love to you in public. How are you going to respond to that?"

"What sort of response do you want?" Myra bit on her lower lip and lifted her head as she looked at him with a pair of glimmering eyes.

All of a sudden, Tony leaned over to place his lips on hers and kissed her tenderly.

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This scene was captured by the members of the press behind them.

Sebastian was quite stunned to see that and he gave a slight cough as his face flushed red in embarrassment, Oh gosh, these two don't even care whether this is an appropriate place and time! Although he lamented this in his heart, he didn't express anything and made his way out of the conference room hand-in-hand with Lisa.

Myra's face flushed completely from her cheeks to the tips of her ears after the kiss from Tony. She glared at Tony and finally succeeded in making him behave slightly. He laughed in a low tone and the both of them then disappeared from the entrance of the conference room.

Unbeknown to the two of them, this press conference was not only a success in clarifying the circulating rumors recently, but their affectionate relationship was also the main focus of the press, resulting in them being the source of envy of the youngsters who saw the live stream.

...

Myra received a phone call on her cell phone soon after arriving at Tony's office. As soon as she answered the phone, a shrill, loud voice rang out, "Myra Stark, I need to talk to you." The person's tone was full of disdain.

Myra furrowed her brows in response. She had a good memory and could recall hearing this voice at Tony's birthday party—turned out it was Shelly on the line. Myra kept her silence but the other party continued her words without even expecting a reply, "Meet me at the café next to the hospital at around 11.00 AM." Then, Shelly hung up the phone right away after finishing her sentence. Feeling speechless, Myra stared at the phone in her hand with a resigned look.

"What's wrong?" Tony had already removed his jacket with her help and the jacket was left aside. Due to his injury, Leo had already sorted out all the documents on his computer. Right now, Tony sat behind his office table and looked at Myra expectantly.

"It's nothing; just a cold call." Evidently, Myra was not going to heed Shelly's instruction to meet at that random café, so she chose to ignore everything.

Meanwhile, Tony didn't bother to press further and he left the conversation as it was.

On the other end, Shelly sat waiting at the café all by herself. Normally, she was the one who turned up late to meet the other party. However, she felt quite worried about Gemma's situation so this time, she arrived half an hour earlier and waited there. She waited there until 11.30 AM but there was no sign of Myra. Angered, she gave Myra multiple phone calls but it was to no avail because the latter didn't pick up the phone at all.

This was the first time that Shelly had experienced such snub from anyone; at this point, her anger toward Myra reached boiling point. Not only did she cause so much pain toward Gemma, now she's behaving so rudely to me! She couldn't control her temper and her chest heaved up and down angrily as she also recalled the problems that her husband and son had faced at work due to Myra's intervention. After considering the situation for a while, she then dialed another number.

The phone rang for quite some time before the other party answered. By the time the call was picked up, Shelly was no longer so desperate. She gritted her teeth for a moment before she spoke haughtily. "Director Chase, I'm Gideon's mother and our surname is Walton; I'm sure you must have heard of me before."

Sean had just walked out of the conference room when he received this call. As soon as he heard her words, his eyes narrowed into slits. "Mrs. Walton?"

"Looks like you're quite smart, Director Chase." Shelly forced a smile and as she continued, "I had an idea that just came to my mind recently so I wanted to seek your cooperation. Are you interested in working together, Director Chase?"

Sean signaled to Richard to indicate that he could leave first. Then, the former walked back to his office. He stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling windows in his office and casually commented, "What sort of business plan do you have in mind, Mrs. Walton?"

"I heard that you used to be married to Miss Myra Stark but after a series of incidents, the two of you ended up getting divorced. I've noticed that you've been quite protective of her even after the divorce. Am I correct in my guess that you're still fond of her and that you are after a reconciliation?" Shelly tried hard to calm down and she spoke slowly and patiently to Sean.

Myra does have some skills up her sleeves; not only is she able to win Tony's heart, there's even another excellent man that's still clinging onto her! I've even heard that Sean's going through divorce proceedings with his current wife. Shelly's expression at that moment was disdainful and mocking as the thoughts ran wild in her mind.

"Mrs. Walton, what are you implying?" Sean's expression remained impassive and he replied with a casual attitude.

“Nothing much, really. Since you’re keen on winning Myra back and my daughter is fixated on Tony, we should work together to break them up. Surely this would increase our chance of succeeding? I mean, us working together would definitely work out better than carrying out our plans individually, right? What do you think, Director Chase?” Shelly smiled victoriously after finishing her speech.

Our family’s more powerful than the Chase Family, so he should thank his lucky stars for the chance to work together with us. If he agrees to cooperate and come between Tony and Myra or help portray Myra as a promiscuous person to the public, then we might stand a chance at breaking them up!

As soon as Shelly said her piece, Sean suddenly chuckled at the other end of the line.

Upon hearing that, she raised her brows and asked, “What’s wrong, Director Chase?”

Sean maintained his silence when he heard her question but he continued chuckling.

Gradually, Shelly realized that there was something wrong. She furrowed her brows and asked with a harsh voice, “What are you laughing at?”

“Mrs. Walton—” He suddenly stopped laughing but his disparaging tone sounded aggravating to her. He was in fact, full of contempt for her and the Walton Family. “I’m quite surprised though, with Miss Walton’s current looks, even if Myra breaks up with Tony, do you really think that your daughter will succeed in getting married to Tony?”

“You—” Shelly gave a loud gasp but Sean didn’t give her a chance to say anything. “From my understanding, Miss Walton’s completely disfigured, no? Even if she undergoes plastic surgery, I reckon there wouldn’t be much difference to her looks. Furthermore, your family has completely offended the Hart Family and they even organized a press conference to clarify everything. Mrs. Walton, how can you be so confident that you’ll succeed in helping your daughter marry Tony?”

Obviously, there was a reason for Sean’s dismissive attitude. Although it seemed that the Walton family were quite powerful, that was all in the past when they were overseas. This wasn’t public knowledge but Sean had investigated their background as soon as they came back to Bradford City. He

had discovered that the Walton family had fallen onto hard times overseas. As a result, they had no choice but to return to Bradford City and develop their business here. Mrs. Walton's disparaging attitude was just a ploy to exploit him. I do want to win back Myra's heart but that doesn't mean I'm willing to become a tool. Besides, the Walton Family is known to be ruthless, so it's quite likely that they'll tear me to pieces after they've made full use of me!

However, there was only one thing on Shelly's mind. "Sean Chase, how on earth did you find out about my daughter's condition?"

Sean replied scornfully, "The social circle in Bradford City is quite small, so I must say this minor incident isn't exactly a secret."

Upon hearing that, Shelly gripped her cell phone tightly to the point where her knuckles turned white. She realized that he was not going to agree to work together so without saying another word, she hung up immediately. Realizing that she had failed to gain anything from Myra and Sean, she angrily flung the coffee cup next to her onto the ground.

The sound of breaking glass immediately attracted the attention of the waitress. As soon as Shelly saw her, she went on a tirade, "What's wrong with you? Why didn't you remind me that the coffee's scalding hot? Did you do this on purpose?"

At that moment, the poor waitress received a scolding for no reason. However, she didn't dare to rebuke Shelly because she knew that most of the people who visited this café were likely to be high up on the social ladder. Although she felt aggrieved, she had no choice but to tolerate the scolding.

After ranting for a short while, Shelly finally left the place after paying the bill.

Just as Shelly was creating that big fuss, on the other end, Kris was on the phone with Gemma.

At this moment, Gemma was relentlessly pestering Kris to find a way to resolve the situation. The former firmly suggested for the latter to admit that she was the one who had released the video clip.

Obviously, Kris was reluctant to do so. While they were in dispute about this, all of a sudden, someone knocked on Kris' office door. Soon after that, the door was opened from the outside and Gideon walked into the room with a dark expression on his face.

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In fact, Gideon had already realized from the start that Kris had her own agenda but he chose to turn a blind eye to it because she had never done anything too drastic. Moreover, he still needed the support of the Stark Group so he chose not to be clear-cut with everything.

However, Kris had crossed the line this time in regards to Gemma's incident.

As soon as Kris noticed Gideon walking into her room, she jumped up from her chair to greet him and immediately placed her cell phone aside, "Gideon, I thought you were at the hospital visiting Gemma. Why did you drop by all of a sudden?"

Evidently, Kris was aware of everything that had happened this morning and the night before. She had always knew that Gemma was quite stupid but she didn't expect the latter to make such a dumb move. She thinks that just because she's the darling daughter of the Walton Family, she has the right to order me around and instruct me to complete her tasks. Well, guess what? All I had to do was send her the video clip. Then, she ended up getting carried away and impulsively released the footage. Looking at how things are going, I think she'll be facing imprisonment. Kris was secretly gleeful about it but of course, she didn't let it show on her face.

Gideon's expression was thunderous as he looked at the woman in front of him. He narrowed his eyes as he questioned, "Kris, you seem to be hanging out with Gemma a lot lately, yes?" He looked at her with a half-smile on his face.

At this point, Kris's heart skipped a beat but she remained calm and smiled at him. "Of course; she's your sister so I regard her as my sister too. We definitely have a good relationship with each other! Besides, Gemma's quite lovely and I'm happy to be friends with her."

"Is that so? I've always felt that Gemma had a bad temper. She never seemed to have much luck in gaining any true friends." Gideon tried his hardest to smile and managed to come up with a fake smile that was devoid of emotion. When he made that comment, he intentionally emphasized the word 'true'.

Kris had a funny feeling upon hearing that; truth was, she would occasionally get this feeling from Gideon. Hence, she bit on her lower lip and asked, "Gideon, are you worried that I'll get into a fight with Gemma? Don't worry;

she's our sister so I'll definitely give in to her. Besides, she just got into that accident and her face is now completely disfigured. No matter what happens, I won't cause her any unhappiness right now!"

"Who told you that her face is completely disfigured?" Gideon's expression took a turn and it darkened immediately.

Kris's heart skipped a beat when she heard his words. No one in the Walton Family had mentioned that to her but after seeing Gemma's face the other day, she had consulted several plastic surgeons for their opinion. Based on what she was told, it was quite hard for such severe wounds to recover. Moreover, Gemma's disfigurement was no longer a secret among their social circle. Kris was just slightly careless with her words and had accidentally mentioned this without even realizing it.

She looked at Gideon warily and said, "Everyone seems to be speculating on this but I don't know who started this. I was just about to inform you, but you appeared before I could call you."

Gideon pondered over it and realized that there were quite a few doctors and nurses involved in the operation back then, so it was relatively easy for the news to be circulated. And so, he fixed his solemn gaze upon Kris for quite some time before mentioning in a low voice, "Kris, I warned you before to not do anything to upset me. As a consequence of the incident regarding the video clip, the profit you get from the Central Square project will be reduced by half. If you make the same mistake again, then there's no need for us to continue being in a relationship."

Gideon's tone of voice was quite somber and Kris couldn't control her thudding heartbeat. The cat's out of the bag once again. She bit on her lower lip and was about to rebuke his words. However, as soon as her eyes met Gideon's sharp gaze that felt quite penetrating, she suddenly was at a loss of words. Nonetheless, her heart ached when she realized that she would lose half of her profit from the Central Square project.

"There's one more thing—don't let Gemma know that her disfigurement is permanent and irreparable. This time, you'd better not cross my limits."

Suddenly, Gideon placed his hand on Kris' neck and stroked it. His hand was cold to the touch but it felt smooth and silky. However, all Kris could feel was a sense of fear and she felt as if a snake was slithering around her neck,

causing her hair to stand on end. It was only after quite some time that she finally regained her senses and nodded in reply. "I won't say a word!"

Gideon finally left in good spirits after hearing that.

As soon as he walked out of the room, Kris stumbled and lost all of her energy, causing her to nearly fall to the ground. Fortunately, she had held on to the side of her office table so she didn't end up on the floor.

They're all monsters! Both Gemma and Gideon are the same! If it weren't for the future benefits she could reap from them, Kris would have given up a long time ago.

However, she envisioned the day the Stark Group could finally belong to her, so she gritted her teeth and clenched her fists determinedly. All of a sudden, she turned her head and looked at the cell phone she had flung aside on her office table.

She was previously on the phone with Gemma before Gideon arrived. After noticing him walk in, she had flung the phone aside but she hadn't hung up the call. She suddenly realized with a start that she had had an intense conversation with Gideon, but... Kris couldn't control her heart from beating wildly and she immediately grabbed the phone to look at the screen, only to see the display showing that the call had ended. Upon seeing that, she gripped her cell phone tightly and wondered whether Gemma had heard her conversation with Gideon.

During their conversation, they had mentioned the video clip and the condition of Gemma's face. Kris bit on her lower lip and thought to herself, I didn't intend to let Gemma know all this. Even if she overheard the conversation, it's not my fault at all! With that thought, she flung her phone aside once again. Truth was, she felt quite exhausted after putting on an act in front of everyone in the Walton Family for the past few days. She leaned back against her swivel chair but her phone chose that moment to ring all of a sudden. She gave a quick glance at the caller identification and her expression turned complicated, but she had no intention of answering the call. However, her phone rang incessantly after that first missed call. And so, Kris couldn't help but answer the call as she recalled the man's tenderness.

Meanwhile in the hospital room, the phone that was originally by Gemma's hand was currently smashed and laid in broken pieces by the wall.

Actually, she had heard every single word of the conversation between Kris and her brother. Everything else was a blur to her except for the sentence that her brother said. There's one more thing—don't let Gemma know that her disfigurement is permanent and irreparable. This time, you'd better not cross my limits.

My disfigurement is permanent and irreparable...

My disfigurement is irreparable...

Irreparable...

Suddenly, Gemma shouted and her body trembled. Over time, the trembling became more intense. All of a sudden, she shrieked wildly again and smashed everything in her sights.

Previously, she was in pain from the injury to her hand and she had used up all of her energy to place her phone atop her shoulder. When she flung her phone to the ground after that, she had strained her injured arm once again but she no longer felt the pain.

Didn't they say that my face could be fixed by plastic surgery? How could it be irreparable? Plastic surgery is so advanced in this time and age, so how can my face be irreparable?

Suddenly, everything hit Gemma all at once and she realized how badly disfigured her face was. She was quite aware of how horrible and ugly she looked. Jumping out of bed, she rushed into the bathroom and gingerly removed the multiple layers of dressing on her face. However, the sight that greeted her was her horribly disfigured face. As soon as she saw that, she couldn't control herself and shrieked manically. She then grabbed hold of everything that was within reach and smashed them into the bathroom mirror, breaking it into pieces.

The two bodyguards outside rushed in upon hearing the commotion. As soon as they saw the scene in front of them, one immediately ran to get help from the doctors and nurses while the other called Gideon right away.

"Miss Walton, are you alright? What's going on?" She was completely fine when Mrs. Walton left the room earlier, so why did she suddenly get to this state?

“Tell me—can my face be fixed?” Gemma suddenly grabbed hold of one of the bodyguards and placed her face right in front of him. She stared at his eyes fixedly while she yelled at him loudly.

Gemma’s sudden gesture of moving right in front of him enlarged her scary-looking scars. The bodyguard got a fright from that and out of reflex, he gagged in disgust.

Gemma became even more crazed upon noticing that. Suddenly, she shoved the two of them aside and ran out of the door.

Standing before Love Chapter 341

They lied; they all lied to me!

They told me plastic surgery would help and they said my face would be back to normal after going through surgery! However, it’s all lies and now they’re going to trick me into leaving the country! Grandpa, Dad, Mom, and Gideon... They’re all going to give up on me so they’ve all been keeping this a secret from me!

At this moment, Gemma’s heart ached painfully and she hated the situation she was in. At the same time, she felt despondent and fearful of the scar on her face. I don’t want to be like this forever and I want to regain my beauty. I just want my pretty face back!

She ran out from the hospital room and headed straight to Tony’s room. I need to see him right away and I want to tell him that my disfigurement is because of him! If he hadn’t provoked and angered me or made that sudden sharp turn, I wouldn’t have crashed into the truck that was parked in front. If all that hadn’t happened, I wouldn’t have ended up looking like such a monstrosity right now!

He has to bear responsibility for this! He must bear the responsibility! And so, Gemma barged into Tony’s room but at this point, he had already left the place. As she failed to get hold of him, she turned around and rushed toward the nearby elevator.

The two bodyguards were not quick enough to stop her and they watched on helplessly as she exited the elevator and walked out of the hospital.

“Sh*t!” One of the bodyguards hit the wall in frustration after realizing that he had failed in stopping her. Meanwhile, the other bodyguard chased her up to the elevator entrance. After reporting the situation to Gideon, both of them hurriedly got into the other elevator that had just arrived and frantically made their way downstairs.

...

Most of Tony’s work was put on hold after his accident so as soon as he arrived back at the office, he went straight back into handling everything. As for Myra, she felt quite sleepy so she went into the lounge to take a nap. After waking up from her nap, she came out of the lounge and saw Leo reporting something to Tony with a frown on his face.

“—the Walton Family is quite careful in this aspect, so we haven’t been successful in tracing the company details of each investor.”

As soon as Tony noticed Myra rubbing her eyes while walking into the room, he gestured to Leo with an impassive face and said, “Noted; I’ll make arrangements for the upcoming plans. Just make sure to let Shawn know not to act rashly for now.”

“Sure, Director Hart.” Leo nodded in response and then greeted Myra quickly as he walked out of the door. Before he left, he was considerate enough to shut the door behind him.

“What were you talking about before this? You two looked quite somber and there was a frown on both of your faces.” Myra walked toward Tony and removed the document in his hand before glaring at him. “You haven’t recovered completely, so stop putting further strain on your hand. Just let me or Leo know if you need anything.”

Tony kept silent and he just stared at her fixedly with a dark and brooding gaze. Myra knew that he must be considering something important so she left him alone and she decided to go and pour him a glass of water. However, just as she turned around, he grabbed hold of her hand.

Myra didn’t dare to exert any force, so she turned around once more to look at him. “What’s wrong?”

Tony smiled at her as he let go of her hand. He then tilted his body to the left, signaling to her that he wanted to get something from the bottom-most

drawer. Myra immediately took the hint and opened the drawer for him. “What are you after? I’ll get it for you.”

Tony nodded and hummed in response. “It’s the one on top; just take that out from the drawer.”

Myra did as instructed and removed the topmost document in the drawer before handing it to him. The document was kept stored in a brown document bag. She was just about to hand it to him but he didn’t take it from her. “Why don’t you open it up and take a look?” he said to her tenderly.

Feeling perplexed, Myra shot him a look and opened the brown document bag, only to find a small stack of A4 papers filled with words. As soon as Myra saw the title, she immediately knew what this was about.

This was the agreement specifying the transfer of her twenty percent shares in the Stark Group which she had left as a guaranty with Mr. Engelhard. Right now, it was clearly specified that all the shares she had left as guaranty with Mr. Engelhard now belonged to her. Myra was significantly stunned upon seeing that and it took a while for her to register what was going on. “What—”

“Aren’t you happy?” Tony noticed her shocked expression and he reached out to pull her onto his lap. He kept his eyes on her as his low voice echoed by her ears.

“I’m happy, but...” Myra turned around and stared at the man in front of her; currently, there was a slight smile on his face. “What’s with all this?” She glanced at the date and noticed that this wasn’t a recent arrangement. In fact, it was not long after her divorce from Sean. Myra felt a warm, fuzzy feeling in her heart and she could feel her breath quicken in response. “Actually, you don’t have to do all this...”

The money she had previously invested into the Chase Group was due in no time and she would be getting back the full amount soon. She had already made plans to use that money to redeem her shares for the Stark Group that was in Mr. Engelhard’s hands. Unbeknown to her, this man in front of her had already redeemed it for her.

“Tony, I...” As she held onto the document, she was at a complete loss of words.

Tony pecked her cheek before he placed his chin above her head. He sounded quite content and happy as he drawled, “I’ve wanted to give this to you for quite some time now. I came up with all sorts of ways to hand it to you but in the end, I’ve gone for the most straightforward way of just handing it to you like this.” Tony chuckled as he recalled this present that he held on for so long and yet didn’t manage to give it to her. “I actually wanted to get Mr. Engelhard or Grandpa to give it to you, but then I realized that I should be the one to hand it to you personally. Myra, this isn’t a dowry. Not only is this a gift, this also represents my love and commitment toward you.”

He then leaned in to kiss her on the lips and nibbled on it as he said in a low voice, “Take a look at the other document behind it.”

Myra was already significantly stunned by his generous gift. As soon as she heard his words, she obediently flipped to the back of the stack of documents. There was another agreement behind the transfer of shares of the Stark Group; it was one that specified the transfer of shares of the Hart Group and the beneficiary name on it was Myra.

She instantly stood up from Tony’s lap upon seeing that. Gripping tightly onto the agreement, she said in a hoarse voice, “You have to change the details on these two agreements; otherwise, I’ll tear it up and it’ll be redundant.”

She made an action to rip the agreement apart. Upon seeing that, Tony immediately grabbed one of her hands and smiled. “The agreement is in duplicate copies so even if you rip it up, I’ll still have the other copy. Besides, this agreement is legally binding so even if you tear it up, the content of it remains unchanged.”

Tony couldn’t control his laughter upon noticing Myra’s torn look. He wrapped his arms around her once again and said, “Anyone else who received these two gifts would have been elated but you’re the complete opposite—all I can see is shock and alarm on your face. You’ve robbed me of my sense of accomplishment!”

“This is different... This is all originally yours—”

“What’s mine is yours too, right?” Tony reached out to remove the documents from her hands to prevent her from ripping them up. He glanced at the last document again. Fifty percent of the shares he owned in the Hart Group now belonged to Myra.

In all honesty, he didn't care too much about all this. He was quite willing to give Myra everything he owned because he trusted her. However, Leo had convinced him to hold on to a percentage of the shares in order to run the company.

"Keep this in a safe place. You might need it in the future."

Tony could tell that she was still struggling to come to terms with this so he raised his brows before kissing her eyes gently. "You can think of it as keeping custody of it for our child."

"But—"

"I'll be quite unhappy if you keep this up." Tony's low voice rang out and he decided to seal her mouth with a deep kiss. After a while, Myra finally nodded her head hesitantly. "Okay, then; I'll keep custody of it for our child." After that, she lifted her head and said, "If you need to use this, just let me know and I'll bring it to you right away."

"Okay." Tony wrapped his hand around hers and he smiled tenderly.

Myra could somehow sense that he was behaving strangely today or perhaps more accurately, she felt that he was behaving strangely after she woke up from her nap. Logically speaking, however, things should be fine between them right now. He had just confessed to her about all the things he did in the past and they had reached a mutual understanding, so it wasn't necessary for him to try so hard to please her.