

TMBA 1321

CHAPTER 1321 HE CHEATED ON ME

"No, thanks. There's no need for that," Erica refused unhesitatingly.

Matthew stood up and walked up to her. He looked into her eyes through the mirror and said, "Don't be so stubborn."

She stopped drying her hair and explained patiently, "A pregnant woman is only required to have a checkup once a month. Besides, I'm just doing fine. I don't need to go to the hospital every half a month."

It was only two weeks ago when she had her last checkup. That was the time when they found out that she was pregnant with twins.

"But I'm worried," he insisted.

This time, she turned off the hairdryer, put it on the table, and turned to him before she asked, "Why are you worried now? You didn't even worry that night when you did something to me."

He was rude to her at that time, but he didn't worry about hurting the babies inside her belly.

His eyes darkened in an instant when he sensed the sarcasm in her voice. He suddenly became dispirited. "Just listen to me this time."

"No, I won't listen to you. But if you really insist, then I'll go to the hospital by myself. I don't want to bother you, Matthew." Actually, she was still mad at him for what he did to her two nights ago. She didn't deserve that punishment he gave her.

Despite her firm objection, he still wrapped his arms around her waist and said, "They are my babies too. It's my responsibility to accompany you during your prenatal checkups."

"I already told you, no need. If you are really worried, just let Paige go with me." She shook his hands off, stood up, and was about to walk out.

But he didn't give her a chance to leave. He gently pressed her back to her seat, turned on the hairdryer, and skillfully began to dry her hair.

She was rendered speechless. He seemed to be using both hard and soft tactics.

The night was so peaceful. Matthew stopped working and also stopped Erica from playing with her phone. They went to bed earlier than usual and fell asleep in each other's arms.

The next morning, although Erica had agreed to have a checkup, she still didn't change her mind about

not letting Matthew accompany her. Left with no choice, he called Paige to go with her to the hospital.

In Askor, Gifford had just arrived at the military base.

As soon as he got out of his car, his phone rang again. It was Rhea, who had been calling her many times these past few days. He wasn't able to answer all her calls because he was busy, so now he decided to take it. "Rhea, I'm sorry. I just came back from a mission."

"It's alright, Gifford. I'm sorry to bother you, but it's just urgent. I have a favor to ask you. Are you busy right now?" As much as possible, Rhea didn't want to bother Gifford. But she couldn't think of a more suitable person to help her than him.

"No, I'm free now. Go ahead, tell me." If it weren't for the fact that she was Erica's good friend, he wouldn't bother to answer her call.

He had only slept for a few hours in the past three days, so he wanted to have a good rest right away.

"Do you still remember my boyfriend? The one that you introduced to me," she reminded him.

"Yes." He nodded although she couldn't see him. He introduced several soldiers to her before, and she had chosen the one who was a year younger than her.

"He cheated on me, Gifford. I want to confront him, but he doesn't want to see me now. Can you ask him to talk to me? Only if you have time. If you are busy now, it's okay. I can wait." She had done everything to see him, but she failed, so she was desperate now.

Gifford rubbed his temple. He was tired, but he also couldn't let his colleague continue to deceive Rhea. "Don't worry, I'm free today, so I'll talk to him. After all, I'm the one who introduced him to you. I should take responsibility as well."

"Thank you, Gifford. I am free anytime, so you just tell me when we can meet."

"Let's meet this afternoon. I'll find a cafe and take him there. By then, you can confront him face to face." "Okay. Thank you so much, Gifford,"

she responded excitedly.

"You're welcome. See you then." After he hung up, he glanced at his men who were training not far away, trying to think what could have gone wrong. When Erica had instigated him to introduce some soldiers to Rhea, he made sure that he had chosen the outstanding ones. It was surprising for him to know that an excellent soldier cheated on his girlfriend.

Indeed, someone's morality couldn't be judged by his performance at work. Even a man who did well in his job could be a jerk in love.

Inside the Sky Coffee Shop, Chantel sat down cautiously opposite a gentleman.

When the man called the waiter, she didn't order anything but just a glass of water.

She couldn't drink tea or coffee now, because she was pregnant.

As soon as the waiter left, the man took out his business card, handed it to her, and introduced himself. "Miss Chantel, I'm the general manager of Global Entertainment. I'll get straight to the point. Matthew told me that you have a background in acting, so he wanted me to meet you."

"Matthew?" Astonished, Chantel asked cautiously, "Do you mean, Matthew Hilton?"

She couldn't believe her ears. Global Entertainment was a famous company, and many people were dreaming of working there.

"Yes, that's right. I had a meeting in Alorith last time, and I met him there. He recommended you to me. I'm sorry to tell you this, but I hope you don't mind. I have been secretly observing in your school recently." Although it was Matthew who recommended her to him, he still had to be responsible for the company. That was why he decided to secretly observe her if she really had what it took to be their talent.

And he was always accurate in judging people. Although Chantel looked very shy, she was brave and focused when she played a role. She was quite skilled in acting.

Chantel reckoned that Erica was the one who helped her. Moved by what she did, she shook her head and said, "No, I don't mind at all. But I am not feeling well recently, so maybe my performance is not good enough." Since she was pregnant, she had some limitations, especially when it came to her movements like dancing.

"Don't worry about it. I observe a person from all aspects. I can say that your skills are not that excellent yet. But before entering our company, all talents will need to undergo a few months of closed training. Each of them becomes outstanding when they finish the training. Now, I want to know if you are willing to join our company so we can arrange everything about your training."

It was such a great opportunity, and it was Matthew who recommended her. The offer was so tempting.

When she was about to say yes, her hand subconsciously touched her belly. All of a sudden, she was brought back to reality. With a sad face, she answered in a low voice, "I...I can't go for now."

The general manager smiled and said, "I know that you are not in good shape right now. But that's alright. Just give me an estimated time of your availability so we can prepare your contract. You can sign it by then." She was still young and beautiful. When the right time came, she could rise to fame in the entertainment industry with the help of Global Entertainment.

Excitement surged in her heart upon hearing his words. She stammered, "O-okay... Then... please give me..." She calculated the number of months in her mind first before she continued, "...seven months." It was already enough for her to fully recover after giving birth.

The general manager was satisfied with her answer. "Okay, then. After seven months, come to Global Entertainment and look for me. But during the seven months, you can call me anytime if something happens."

"Thank you so much!"

"You're welcome," he replied with a smile.

#### CHAPTER 1322 THE EXCLUSIVE EXAMINATION ROOM

After their meeting, the general manager of Global Entertainment left first. Chentel stayed in the coffee shop for quite a while, sitting alone and staring at the window blankly, still trying to digest what had happened just now.

All of a sudden, she caught sight of two men in military uniforms. Because of Gifford, she had always been sensitive to green military uniforms recently.

But this time, she was surprised when she recognized one of them. It was really Gifford!

She had never seen him again after they had gotten their marriage licenses more than a month ago.

The excitement she felt during her meeting with the general manager of Global Entertainment just now doubled upon seeing Gifford.

She couldn't help thinking, 'What is he doing here? Did he know that I'm here, so he came to look for me?'

But it's impossible. I didn't tell anyone about this meeting.'

The two men walked straight to the corner and set down in a slightly hidden table.

The smile on Chentel's face vanished as her heart sank. She was wrong. He didn't come here for her.

She was about to go to their table to greet him when a woman in a brown coat came in and walked straight to them.

Subconsciously, she sank back to her seat.

Although she could see them clearly from where she sat, she couldn't hear what they were talking

about, so she just watched them.

After talking for quite a while, the women stood up angrily and pulled Gifford's sleeve. Gifford stood up and patted the women's shoulders as if comforting her. He then led her out of the cafe.

Chentel didn't mind the other men as her gaze followed Gifford and the women outside. Gifford was talking to the women in front of his car. She didn't know what he said to take the women's anger away, but they ended up laughing. Eventually, he invited the women to get in his car.

His car had already left a few moments ago, but Chentel was still staring outside, her mind blank.

She had even forgotten her plan to call Eric to thank her the moment she saw Gifford leave with another woman.

In the hospital of Alorith

Peige carefully supported Eric to enter the elevator. They were there for the letter's prenatal checkup. As soon as they stepped inside the elevator, Eric caught a glimpse of someone familiar to her. She was the rich lady whom she had given a vase in the charity auction last time.

Behind her was a maid, who was carrying some expensive gifts in her hands. When she saw and recognized Eric, she greeted warmly, "Hello, Eric. What a coincidence!"

Eric smiled at her and greeted back, "Hello."

"Are you here to visit a patient?"

"No. I'm here for my prenatal checkup."

"Oh. You've entered the wrong building. This is the inpatient department. You should be at the outpatient department," the rich lady reminded her.

With a smile on her face, Eric explained, "I have an exclusive examination room in the inpatient department." The exclusive room was arranged by Matthew ahead of time.

"Oh, my poor memory. How could I forget? Eric will not have to wait in line like commoners for checkups." Feeling embarrassed, the rich lady gently slapped her forehead.

The elevator then became quiet for a moment before Eric asked casually, "Are you here to visit a patient?"

"Yes. Neville's son, Watkins, had an accident the night before yesterday. He told me that I could visit today, so I came to check on his son," the lady answered truthfully. She had no idea that Eric also knew the person she mentioned.

"Wetkins?" Erice was shocked to hear his name.

"Yes. Do you know him?"

Before she could answer, the elevator stopped on the ninth floor, where the obstetrics and gynecology department was located.

Cast a glance at the opened elevator door, she asked hurriedly, "What happened to him?"

"I heard someone hit him badly, and he's severely injured. His ward is on the fifteenth floor." Since Erice had given the rich lady a valuable vase, and she knew that she was Matthew's wife, she had said so much.

Fortunately, there was no one else in the elevator, so Erice took the opportunity to ask again, "He's my friend. May I know his ward number? I'll visit him after my checkup." She already had an appointment with her doctor so she couldn't go there now.

"VIP Ward 6."

"Thank you," she said before walking out of the elevator. Paige, who had been blocking the elevator doors from closing, followed behind her.

"Bye!" The rich lady smiled and waved at her. But before the doors closed, she added, "Erice, let's have some tea one of these days."

"Sure."

The doctor did a thorough check on Erice this time. Afterward, she said with a smile, "Erice, you have nothing to worry about. Your babies are both fine. Although I can't see one of the embryos clearly yet, I am pretty sure that there are two babies inside your belly. After a few days, the other embryo will be visible."

Matthew had personally invested in this most advanced new ultrasound machine that the doctor was using. But since the babies were too small yet, they sometimes couldn't be seen clearly in some places.

Paige wiped the ultrasound gel on Erice's belly and helped her get up from the bed.

"Thank you so much, doctor," Erice said with a smile.

"You're welcome," the doctor replied.

After her checkup, they went to the fifteenth floor as she promised to the rich lady.

They found Wetkins' ward number immediately. The rich lady had already left, but the gifts and flowers she brought were inside the ward.

When the nurse, who was taking care of Wetkins, saw them at the door, she said in a low voice, "Who are you looking for? The visiting hours are over."

Erice pointed at the man in bed who was wrapped in bandages. Since his eyes were closed, he must be sleeping.

"Sorry, Wetkins is not available right now," said the nurse again.

Peige didn't want Erice's effort to go to waste. Besides, it would be inconvenient for her to come back and see Wetkins another time. So, she deliberately raised her voice as she said to the nurse, "Mrs. Hilton heard that Wetkins was injured, so she came to see how he is now."

As expected, Wetkins opened his eyes upon hearing Peige's voice.

The moment he saw Erice, a complicated emotion flashed through his eyes. He struggled to call her name, "Erice..."

As she heard him call her name, Erice rushed to his bedside. Looking at his almost unrecognizable face, she asked worriedly, "What happened to you? You were just fine two days ago. How did you end up like this?"

His mouth curved into a faint smile. " Haven't you heard what happened?"

That moment, Peige's phone rang. It was Matthew. She walked to the window and answered it, "Matthew."

Erice shook her head to Wetkins' question and asked doubtfully, "Is there something I need to know?"

Wetkins fell silent for a moment before he spoke again. "I was the one who sent you those roses."

"What? It was you?" She was stunned. No wonder Matthew got very angry and blamed her for accepting flowers from another man. She didn't have any idea that Wetkins was the one who sent them. "Why did you send me those roses?"

"Because I like you."

Wetkins' straightforwardness stunned her more. She suddenly got confused. Did he like her as a friend or more than that?

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"Because I like you."

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#### CHAPTER 1323 DATING FOUR WOMEN AT THE SAME TIME

"Matthew found out that I was the one who sent you the roses, so I ended up like this." There was an unreadable emotion in Watkins' eyes as he said those words.

But what he said was like a bomb that exploded in Erica's ears. Her body shivered as she asked cautiously, "Do you mean it was Matthew who did this to you?" 'Why didn't I know anything?' she wondered inwardly.

Before Watkins could answer, Paige came and quickly handed her the phone. "Erica, Matthew wants to talk to you."

She took the phone from Paige in a daze and reflexively said, "Hello?"

"Since you are done with your checkup, let Paige drive you home now. Don't go somewhere else anymore." There was no emotion in Matthew's voice.

Erica first turned to Watkins, who had been beaten black and blue, before she said in a low voice, "I heard that Watkins is in this hospital too, so I came to check on him. I didn't expect that he is seriously

injured."

"I did it," he admitted bluntly.

She bit her lower lip to suppress the anger that boiled up in her heart and asked, "Why did you do it? Just because he sent me those roses?" 'How can Matthew be this ruthless?' she thought angrily.

"Yes."

"You are so cruel!"

His eyes turned cold as ice when she called him cruel. He could even be more ruthless. "Whoever dares to covet my wife must die," he said through clenched teeth.

She trembled at his words. This was her first time to discover his horrible side.

"Erica, you better stop arguing with me over an irrelevant man. Otherwise, I might do something more savage to him."

Matthew spoke in his usual low voice, but it sounded cold and cruel to her ears.

As Watkins heard their conversation, he said in a trembling voice, "Erica, you may leave now. I want to have a good rest."

Erica hung up the phone and gave it back to Paige. The assistant said, "Erica, Matthew told me to send you back home."

"Wait a moment," she answered. She then turned and walked towards the bed. "Watkins, I'm so sorry. This is all my fault."

Watkins shook his head and replied, "Don't blame yourself, Erica. You should go back home now."

She nodded. "Rest well. I'll visit you again some other day." She needed to talk to Matthew about this.

"Okay. Take care."

"Bye."

Paige had intended to send Erica back to the villa, but the latter insisted on seeing Matthew, so they went straight to the company instead.

Only five minutes had passed since they left the hospital when Erica's phone rang. It was Watkins.

She immediately answered it. "Hello? What's up?"

"Erica, I just want to say don't fight with Matthew because of me. After all, you are pregnant now. It's not good for you. This is all my fault. I just thought he doesn't love you, so I pluck up the courage to send you those roses. I have forgotten the fact that you are his wife. Whether he loves you or not, it's normal for him to get jealous when other men send you flowers."

His words stung her heart. Was it true that Matthew didn't love her? She fell silent.

He continued, "Matthew has always been domineering and cruel. Everyone in the business world knows that. I should be grateful that he has not taken my life this time. Erica, I'm just an outsider. Don't care so much about me. What's important is, he is treating you well. If you will still be together in the future, just be careful not to annoy him, okay?"

However, Watkins was not an outsider for her. "Watkins, you are not an outsider. You are my friend. And what he has done to you is definitely wrong." She had nothing to be afraid of. Nothing was going on between her and Watkins, except for being friends. Watkins might be wrong for sending her flowers because he thought that Matthew didn't love her. But Matthew went too far this time.

However, she also couldn't agree with Watkins on one thing. She believed that Matthew couldn't afford to hurt her no matter how much she'd annoy him. She had already offended him countless times, but he had always been forgiving. "Watkins, Matthew is always good to me. Although he is weird sometimes, he has never hurt me. I know he won't ever use violence on me, just like what he did to you. But again, I don't like the way he treated you."

Indeed, Matthew had been spoiling her all the time ever since they got married. She never had any problems with him except for the recent conflicts that happened between them.

Watkins immediately apologized and said with concern, "I'm sorry, Erica. I'm just overthinking. Take care of yourself and your baby."

"Thank you. Bye!"

When Paige saw her hang up the phone, she said with a smile, "Erica, your health is the most important now. Don't think too much, and always keep yourself happy."

Erica felt that her words had some hidden meanings. She looked at her in confusion. "Matthew..."

Paige smiled, waiting for her to continue.

"Well...I... I'm just wondering how Matthew had treated his enemies in the past," she said.

"Erica, I think there's a misunderstanding between you and Matthew. I suggest that you have a heart-to-heart talk with him later. Matthew was never soft to those who had offended him. But his actions were also premised on how hateful they were. Since Watkins ended that way, there must be a valid reason

why Matthew did such a thing to him. It's better that you ask him about it."

Erica was too naive and inexperienced. She had never known how cruel the real world was. That was why she was so simple and pure.

Perhaps the Leonard family had protected her too well. Moreover, Matthew had doted on her unconditionally since they got married. No wonder she couldn't recognize some people's true colors yet.

But Paige admired her so much. How she wished she could also live a carefree and simple life like her.

Erica's mind was in a mess as complex emotions overwhelmed her heart. She didn't know what to say anymore.

Before she got out of the car, her phone rang again. It was Rhea calling this time. Somehow, her mood had gotten a bit better. "Hello, my dear Rhea."

"Rika, your dear Rhea has just broken up with her boyfriend."

"What?" she exclaimed. She got a little confused, so she asked, "Didn't you just send me some screenshots of your chat history two days ago to show off your love?" Rhea had even sent her a voicemail full of laughter.

"He is dating four women at the same time," Rhea exclaimed.

Erica was so shocked to hear such news. "Oh, my God! Seriously? Four women? Is your boyfriend a beast?"

"I'm sure he is. And you know what? If I haven't accidentally joined a WeChat group and saw a woman's profile photo that looked exactly like mine, I wouldn't have discovered it." There was a hint of anger in Rhea's voice. Well, who would have thought that her boyfriend was such a jerk?

She had actually sent a friend request to that woman. At first, she thought that it was just a coincidence that they used the same profile photo, so she wanted to have a casual chat with her.

But to her surprise, while they were chatting, the woman sent her a photo of her boyfriend to show off that he was a soldier protecting the country.

She stared at the photo for a very long time. And she couldn't be mistaken. The man in the picture, who was smiling cheek to cheek with the woman, was her boyfriend.

#### CHAPTER 1324 A BIG FIGH

"I thought you two used couple profiles on WeChat?" Erica asked. She wanted to match her profile with Rhea's so they could show off their friendship. Unfortunately, when Erica saw Rhea's boyfriend's profile, she realized that she and her boyfriend were using couple profiles.

"Yeah! I found that asshole was using couple profiles with three other girls besides me!" Rhea yelled.

"What a jerk!" Erica commented. A few minutes later, the car stopped before the entrance of Hilton Group. Paige ran over to Erica's side and opened the door to help her get out.

After a moment's silence, Rhea said, "I was particularly obsessed with the uniform on him. Your brother introduced a few guys to me when he was free. Why did I fall in love with him? Another guy your brother introduced to me back then has been promoted two ranks in a row. Why didn't I choose him in the first place? Was I blind then?"

Erica didn't know what to say, nor could she decide on whether to laugh or cry at Rhea's words. "How did you find out about the other two girls?"

"Well, I called Gifford for help again even though he was really busy. I tried to contact him several times, and finally got through. I asked him to accompany me to meet my boyfriend. Then I confronted that jerk face to face. I saw that there were another two girls he kept calling 'honey' on his phone..." It must have broken Rhea's heart into pieces back then.

Fortunately, Gifford had taken her away before she could burst into tears, saving her from the embarrassment of being a mess in front of him.

"Why don't you let my brother beat up that jerk? The least he could do is send him to the hospital for a few days!" 'Men like these are scum that need to be beaten senseless.' Erica's face soured at the mere thought of that wicked man.

Rhea took a deep breath and said, "Forget about it. I don't want to make trouble for your brother. What about you? What are you up to?"

Taking a look at the CEO's exclusive elevator in front of her, Erica walked in and said, "I'm going to Matthew's office to speak with him."

"What happened? Is something wrong?" Rhea asked when she noticed the change in Erica's tone at the mention of Matthew.

"Rhea, Matthew is so bossy and stubborn. I can't stand it anymore!" Erica blurted, completely disregarding Paige, who was also inside the elevator with her because she believed she was speaking the truth. As long as that was the case, Erica didn't see why she would be afraid of Paige snitching on her to Matthew.

Rhea thought for a moment and said, "Well, if I remember correctly, your husband is a Scorpio, right? Scorpions are bossy and stubborn in nature. They are also infamous for being overly possessive."

Erica believed her friend's words to be true. "Matthew is a typical Scorpio. He is domineering, heartless,

and always suspicious. In my opinion, people like that shouldn't be in relationships with other people."

After all, Erica was a person, not a machine. She also needed space and freedom. She felt as though she was suffocating in his tight grips and the thought of carrying on like this was impossible.

Just as the elevator doors slid open, the two women walked out one after the other. All the while, Rhea tried to comfort Erica over the phone. "All right, calm down. You're pregnant now. Don't think about that stuff too much. Look at it this way, Matthew wants you to be the only woman in his life. Would you rather have him run after another woman?"

In truth, Erica was inwardly happy that Matthew was very possessive about her, but she couldn't accept how unreasonable he could be.

"I'm in his office right now. I'll talk to you later, Rhea."

"Okay! Bye! Take good care of my godson and goddaughter!" Rhea ardently hoped that Erica would have a boy and a girl, and she could be their godmother.

"Okay, bye!" After Erica got off the phone, Paige slowly opened the door to Matthew's office for her.

Matthew had been waiting for her inside the room. When he saw the woman come in, he didn't move; instead, he maintained a steady glare with deep set eyes.

Erica put away her phone and stopped in front of his desk. She tilted her head to the side and looked into the man's eyes. "Don't you think you went too far this time?"

Without answering her question, Matthew stood up, walked around the desk and suddenly lifted the woman up in his arms. Before Erica knew it, the man softly placed her on top of the desk.

With his hands on her hips, he trapped her in his arms and said slowly, "Let me say it again. Rika, you'd better not lose your temper because of an irrelevant man!"

Matthew's words gave Erica cause for alarm. She looked at him meekly and said, "You didn't have to beat him up so badly!" Watkins looked like a mummy. He had a broken arm and his entire body had to be wrapped up in bandages. In fact, it was difficult for Erica to believe that Matthew, a man who always showed his noble side, could do this to another human being.

"Huh!" Matthew sneered. "What do you think I should have done to be more merciful? Break the tendons of his wrists and feet? Destroy Champion Group? Or bind his hands and feet and throw him into a pool of crocodiles?"

Erica's eyes were wide with shock and she couldn't believe Matthew could say such horrendous things without feeling even an ounce of remorse. "Matthew, you are a horrible man!" Erica knew that Watkins deserved a punishment, but Matthew had gone too far.



Matthew raised the woman's chin with the tip of his finger. He smiled when he realized her face looked plumper than before. She must have been experiencing an increase in her appetite due to her pregnancy. He gazed at her eyes and said with a hint of warning in his tone, "Erica, I want absolute loyalty! Nothing less! If you have an affair with another man, I want you to know that you will be destroying that man's life forever. Do you understand me?"

"I find that a bit funny and hypocritical! What about you? What about your relationship with Phoebe? And with Camille? Should I tie Phoebe up and throw her into the pool of crocodiles. How about I pump Camille full of lead?"

Much to Erica's surprise, Matthew took out his phone from his pocket, found Owen's phone number and told Erica, "If you really mean it, I'll ask Owen to do as you say. I promise that neither Camille nor Phoebe will ever see the light of day again." Matthew wouldn't hesitate to wipe out the entire Campbell family if that was what his wife wanted.

As far as he was concerned, absolute loyalty was a two-way street. If he was expecting it from Erica, then obviously he was willing to give it to her as well in return.

"I thought you two used couple profiles on WeChat?" Erica asked. She wanted to match her profile with Rhea's so they could show off their friendship. Unfortunately, when Erica saw Rhea's boyfriend's profile, she realized that she and her boyfriend were using couple profiles.

"Yeah! I found that asshole was using couple profiles with three other girls besides me!" Rhea yelled.

"What a jerk!" Erica commented. A few minutes later, the car stopped before the entrance of Hilton Group. Paige ran over to Erica's side and opened the door to help her get out.

After a moment's silence, Rhea said, "I was particularly obsessed with the uniform on him. Your brother introduced a few guys to me when he was free. Why did I fall in love with him? Another guy your brother introduced to me back then has been promoted two ranks in a row. Why didn't I choose him in the first place? Was I blind then?"

Erica didn't know what to say, nor could she decide on whether to laugh or cry at Rhea's words. "How did you find out about the other two girls?"

"Well, I called Gifford for help again even though he was really busy. I tried to contact him several times, and finally got through. I asked him to accompany me to meet my boyfriend. Then I confronted that jerk face to face. I saw that there were another two girls he kept calling 'honey' on his phone..." It must have broken Rhea's heart into pieces back then.

Fortunately, Gifford had taken her away before she could burst into tears, saving her from the embarrassment of being a mess in front of him.

"Why don't you let my brother beat up that jerk? The least he could do is send him to the hospital for a

few days!" 'Men like these are scum that need to be beaten senseless.' Erica's face soured at the mere thought of that wicked man.

Rhea took a deep breath and said, "Forget about it. I don't want to make trouble for your brother. What about you? What are you up to?"

Taking a look at the CEO's exclusive elevator in front of her, Erica walked in and said, "I'm going to Matthew's office to speak with him."

"What happened? Is something wrong?" Rhea asked when she noticed the change in Erica's tone at the mention of Matthew.

"Rhea, Matthew is so bossy and stubborn. I can't stand it anymore!" Erica blurted, completely disregarding Paige, who was also inside the elevator with her because she believed she was speaking the truth. As long as that was the case, Erica didn't see why she would be afraid of Paige snitching on her to Matthew.

Rhea thought for a moment and said, "Well, if I remember correctly, your husband is a Scorpio, right? Scorpios are bossy and stubborn in nature. They are also infamous for being overly possessive."

Erica believed her friend's words to be true. "Matthew is a typical Scorpio. He is domineering, heartless, and always suspicious. In my opinion, people like that shouldn't be in relationships with other people."

After all, Erica was a person, not a machine. She also needed space and freedom. She felt as though she was suffocating in his tight grips and the thought of carrying on like this was impossible.

Just as the elevator doors slid open, the two women walked out one after the other. All the while, Rhea tried to comfort Erica over the phone. "All right, calm down. You're pregnant now. Don't think about that stuff too much. Look at it this way, Matthew wants you to be the only woman in his life. Would you rather have him run after another woman?"

In truth, Erica was inwardly happy that Matthew was very possessive about her, but she couldn't accept how unreasonable he could be.

"I'm in his office right now. I'll talk to you later, Rhea."

"Okay! Bye! Take good care of my godson and goddaughter!" Rhea ardently hoped that Erica would have a boy and a girl, and she could be their godmother.

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As far as he was concerned, absolute loyalty was a two-way street. If he was expecting it from Erica, then obviously he was willing to give it to her as well in return.

Erica felt a shiver pass through her when she realized that Matthew wasn't joking. Suddenly, she grabbed his sleeve and broke down, failing to suppress the restlessness in her heart. "I can't be as cruel as you!"

Matthew casually threw his phone on the desk and put his hand on her belly. A lot of tenderness appeared in his eyes as he looked at the woman. "Honey, as long as you behave well, I promise you will be the happiest woman in the world."

'Behave well? Am I not obedient enough now? What else does he want me to do?' she thought to herself. She pulled his hand away and said, "You know what? You've beaten up Watkins so badly that he can't even move in his hospital bed. The poor man begged me not to quarrel with you! He said he would never send me roses again. You should go and apologize to him..."

"You want me to apologize to him?" Matthew's eyes were wide with anger.

Erica nodded and said, "Yes, or we can visit him together and apologize to him."

Matthew stood up straight, put his hands into his pockets and quietly suppressed the anger in his heart. After a long time, he looked at his wife and said, "Okay, I'll apologize to Watkins, but only if you apologize to Camille. After all, you slapped her, didn't you? What's more, it is because of me that she is lying in a hospital bed right now."

'He wants me to apologize to Camille?' Erica was burning with anger. "Matthew, how dare you ask me to apologize to a woman who tried to seduce my husband!"

The atmosphere in the office was tense, almost as if a huge fight was about to break out.

"Rika, you can't have it both ways. If you can't apologize to Camille, then how can you ask me to apologize to a man who tried to seduce my wife?"

His rhetorical question rendered Erica speechless.

After a while, she stared into his eyes and asked, "Are you blaming me for slapping Camille? Are you blaming me for ruining your relationship with her?"

#### CHAPTER 1325 YOU REGRET MARRYING ME

Hearing what Erica said, Matthew got angry. He wondered what kind of person he was in her eyes. He stared at her. 'Can't you see my love for you? Do you even know how much I love you? Or you just don't want to face that truth?' "Do you mean that I've ruined your relationship with Watkins?" he asked. After all, he had also beaten Watkins up.

Erica sighed and explained calmly, "Nothing happened between me and Watkins. There wasn't even any physical contact. Shouldn't you be apologizing for beating him up like that? And as for you and Camille, I slapped her because she held your hand and had physical contact with you. Do you get it?"

The point was that Matthew was too cruel. She wouldn't have come here to argue with him if he hadn't beaten Watkins up to such an extent. Matthew had almost crippled him.

"Erice, we both know whet red roses meen. He wes expressing his love for you by sending you those flowers. You should know, I'm e men, end your husbend, nonetheless. Now thet he dered to provoke me like this, he should heve prepered himself to beer my enger. He hed it coming." His breeths were deep. He regretted giving Wetkins just e beeting.

In his enger, Metthew thought he should heve buried him elive, leeving Erice no chence to see him. Erice pounded his shoulder heevily. Seeing thet his eyes were so fierce es if he were going to kill her, she continued to vent her enger out on him. "Go ewey! I don't went to see you."

Metthew grebbed her wrist end held her tightly in his erms. He esked her coldly, "Then who do you went to see if you don't went to see me? Wetkins?"

Erice couldn't move in his erms. She wes so engray thet she simply reised her heed end bit his chin. She didn't let go of him until she wes sure thet her teeth hed left merks. "I will meke sure thet you get my teeth merks on your chin every dey so you won't get to see other people!"

"Sure, go eheed. I don't cere. I don't mind steying with you ell dey long end see no one else." Metthew plented his fece on her neck end geve Erice e hot kiss.

Erice shivered. She tried to refuse end her voice came out trembling. "Let go of me! Demn it. I don't went you to kiss me... Mmmph..." Her chettering wes silenced es Metthew locked his lips with hers.

For e while, they hed been querreling from the office to the lounge. This time, Metthew mede sure he punished Erice in bed.

When he wes done, he picked his clothes up from the floor end put them on. Even efter en eventful fight, he still looked like e noble end domineering CEO. Erice steyed still in the bed naked. She hed treces of merks ell over her body, like e greetly wronged little wife.

After he hed been intimete with her, his enger subsided. Sitting on the edge of the bed, Metthew coexed his tearful wife, "Whet would you like for lunch?"

His big pelm mede its way to her swollen belly end lovingly ceressed it beck end forth.

Even if his enger hed feded, Erice wes still engray. She kicked him end shouted without thinking, "I don't went to eet. Go ewey. I hete you! I hete you!" Her fece looked blenk.

She heted thet she could never heve the upper hend when they were heving sex, end she felt ennoyed thet he didn't teke no for en answer.

Heering her sey "I hete you" reminded Metthew of whet Wetkins hed seid to him. "She seid she doesn't love you. She wes forced to sleep with you."

Matthew then asked her indifferently, "You really hate me that much?"

"Yeah. I hate you so much!" She hated his tyranny. She hated that he was cruel and barbaric. She hated everything about him.

All of a sudden, the temperature of the lounge immensely dropped. Erice shuddered in the quilt, only revealing her pair of angry eyes.

Matthew stared at her eyes and raised his hand.

Erice hurriedly pulled the quilt over her head to hide from him for fear that he might hit her.

He pulled the quilt down and held her head with his hand, forcing her to look at him. His eyes looked sharp. After making sure Erice was listening, he said, "Don't be so ungrateful."

Her mouth almost fell open, and stubbornness was written on her face. "Why am I so ungrateful?"

"Erice, I hope you remember this. You can do whatever you please, that's fine—because I spoil you. But if I don't, you'd mean nothing to me." It seemed that he had spoiled her so much that she could dare to throw so many hurtful words at him.

Erice was taken aback. Hearing what her husband had said left her quite stunned. She straightened her neck and stubbornly retorted, "Whatever. I still have my parents. Even if I didn't marry you, I would still be their favorite child. If no man loves me, then I just won't marry any man all my life and will remain my parents' princess!"

"Huh." Matthew snorted. "Then, tell me. Why did you marry me in the first place?"

What he said poured cold water on her. Erice got so mad that her face turned red. "Are you seriously asking me that? You forced me to marry you! If not for you, I wouldn't even be lying here with a big belly. You wouldn't be able to bully me!" If she hadn't married, she would still be in Askor, living her carefree, single life.

She wouldn't have met the Campbell sisters in Alorith, and perhaps Ethen would still be living with the Leonard family.

"Hmm. So..." His big palm slowly moved down to her neck. "You mean you regret marrying me?"

Erice tried to avoid his gaze. She really wanted to say yes. However, she realized that she didn't have the heart to say the word.

Instead, she asked herself, 'Do I regret marrying him? No, not really. I don't regret it.' Even so, she was so mad at him at the moment. "Why are you trying to strangle me? I didn't even say anything..."

Since she was hesitating and didn't give him an answer right away, Matthew tightened his grip on her neck. Erice got scared that she hurriedly grabbed his hand and tried to loosen his grip.

In Matthew's eyes, her hesitation meant that she regretted marrying him. His face looked fierce and he warned her word by word, "Listen to me. I'd rather destroy what I can't have!" He didn't want to see her with another man.

This was the first time that Erice had seen Matthew like this. The grim expression all over his face made her shiver once again. "Get away from me! I don't want to see you!" She wanted to drive him away and be left alone. Erice had been wondering how and why everything between them turned upside down, and she wanted some time to herself so she could think.

This was the first time they had such a big fight since they got married.

While she was quiet, Matthew had been deep in thought. He remembered how she had driven him out over and over again whenever she got mad at him. This time, despite his anger, he had no other way to punish her since she was carrying his babies. Matthew then withdrew his hand, turned around, and walked away.

Bang! He slammed the door deliberately and heavily that even the walls trembled.

Erice waited for a while before she got up. She slowly took a deep breath to calm her nerves and started dressing herself up. When she left the lounge, Matthew was no longer in the office. She looked for Paige and asked her to send her back to the Hilton family manor.

After having lunch at home, she took a nap for a while before she went to school.

While she was walking down the hallway to go to her next class, a girl stopped her. "Erice!"

She turned around and saw that it was Keitlyn.

Preoccupied, she glanced at Keitlyn and quickly shifted back her gaze to her camera. She was deleting useless photos. "What's up?"

Keitlyn came over and took her arm. "Hey. Uhm, I just wanted to thank you for saving me that night."

Erice pulled her arm from her grip and replied indifferently, "You don't need to. I didn't take it seriously." She was too distracted with what happened between her and Matthew, so she really wasn't in the mood to think about Keitlyn.

Still, Keitlyn didn't give up and added, "I'm sorry for what happened before, but I have my own struggles. Since you saved me, I'll tell you the truth. To be honest, it was Phoebe who asked me to steal your work."

Although Erica was lost in thought, what she heard drew her attention.

'Did she say Phoebe?'

Erica looked at her with doubt written on her face. "You know Phoebe? How do you know her? Why did she ask you to steal my work?"

Keitlyn sighed and told her the truth. "Okay, here goes. Phoebe's mom is my aunt. In all honesty, I didn't want to steal your work, but my mother had a favor to ask of them, and so I was told to listen to them and do whatever they asked me to do. Phoebe wanted to embarrass you, so she asked me to steal your work. She even found a hacker to hack into your computer and delete your original photos. I had no choice but to cooperate. I'm really sorry for what I did to you, Erica."

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In his anger, Matthew thought he should have buried him alive, leaving Erica no chance to see him. Erica pounded his shoulder heavily. Seeing that his eyes were so fierce as if he were going to kill her, she continued to vent her anger out on him. "Go away! I don't want to see you."

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"Sure, go ahead. I don't care. I don't mind staying with you all day long and seeing no one else." Matthew planted his face on her neck and gave Erica a hot kiss.



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She hated that she could never have the upper hand when they were having sex, and she felt annoyed that he didn't take no for an answer.

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#### CHAPTER 1326 CHEATING HER INTO GETTING PREGNAN

Doubt reflected in Erica's expression as she stared at the young woman in front of her. She didn't know whether she should believe Kaitlyn or not. Kaitlyn deftly pulled out her phone from her pocket to prove her innocence. "I have the chat history with my cousin. If you don't believe me, I'll show you!"

Then she turned to a chat page. The person who was marked as Phoebe by Kaitlyn did give her

instructions to steal Erica's work.

"Later, Matthew asked the school to expel both my boyfriend and me. As no school is willing to accept a student who was expelled from Alorith Film Academy, my parents spent a lot of money to admit me to a three-class university." Tears welled in Kaitlyn's eyes as she spoke. Her expression was so sincere that she almost convinced Erica.

But, Erica had dealt with the Campbell family's three sisters so often that she had learned her lesson. She was afraid that Kaitlyn was a lying bitch, just like her cousins. So, she simply nodded, even though she had doubts regarding Kaitlyn's candor. Eventually, she said, "I know, but I have to go to class. Bye!"

"Okay, but Erica, can you forgive me? I know that I was wrong!" Kaitlyn begged pitifully.

"It doesn't matter whether I forgive you or not. We are not in the same school now, and we won't meet each other in the future," Erica said indifferently. If Kaitlyn hadn't come to her, they might never have met.

Kaitlyn took a deep breath and sighed, "Okay. I understand your feelings. After all, I did hurt you. Anyway, I still have to thank you. If you need any help in the future, just call me!"

"Well, thank you." Erica didn't want to talk to her anymore, so she thanked the young woman for her offer and turned to leave.

Several days passed, and there was no sign of Matthew. He stopped coming home, and Erica found that she was sleeping alone every night.

One night, as the pregnant woman lay in her bed, she touched her round belly and thought about her husband. The more she contemplated, the sadder she became. After a short while, she burst into tears. 'Matthew is a liar. He tricked me into getting pregnant. Now that I'm carrying his children, he won't even come home!'

She wanted to run away. She never wanted to return with his children.

Erica suddenly sat up in the bed. A marriage devoid of love would not last, and she had to leave herself a way out.

After much thought, she gave up. Yes, she gave up!

Matthew had provided her with bank cards. If she left home and used the cards, he would find out. Then he'd be able to track her and bring her home. There was no way she could run from him.

She could transfer the money in her accounts to someone else. But she didn't know any trustworthy people except her family, Rhea, and Hyatt.

She couldn't possibly take Rhea's or Hyatt's bank cards with her, could she? No way! Matthew was not stupid. He would investigate them if Erica ran away.

So, in the end, her plan would not work.

On the fourth day, Erica was so distraught that she called Debbie. That was when she learned that Matthew was on a business trip to Mipburg and that he would be gone for half a month. The ever-kind Debbie invited Erica to live with them in the Hilton family manor so that she could take care of her.

Erica agreed. After all, it was scary to live in such a big villa alone.

She didn't dare to revisit Watkins. Every time she met him, Matthew would be furious.

So, she did the next best thing. She sent a message. "Watkins, are you feeling better now?"

After waiting for a long time, she received Watkins' reply. "I'm fine. The doctor said that I'd be discharged from the hospital in two days, and I can stay at home till my arm recovers."

"Oh, that's good!"

"Erica, can you pick me up from the hospital? My parents have been out of town these past two days, and I'm quite lonely. They will not return in time for my discharge, and I need your help."

When she saw this message, Erica considered his request for a while. Then, she refused politely, "I'm sorry, Watkins. I may not be able to help you. Is it all right if I ask my friend to pick you up instead?"

'I have always been considerate of Matthew's feelings. Alas! How could he not love a devoted wife like me? Why did he fall in love with a bitch?' The thought upset Erica.

She glanced at the phone repeatedly, but Watkins didn't reply. After waiting for a while, Erica began to get angry. 'Why didn't he respond to my offer? What does his silence imply?'

Perhaps he's fallen asleep.' With a frown, she decided to focus on her work.

Over the next few days, Kaitlyn approached Erica repeatedly. She would often bring snacks for her as well. After observing Kaitlyn for some time, Erica felt that she didn't have any malicious intentions, so she gradually began to feel comfortable around her.

One afternoon, she prepared her camera for a photo-shoot in the school's photo studio. Now, all she needed was a model. Kaitlyn came to her again. "Hi, Erica! Look at what snacks I've brought you!"

Then she pulled out a paper bag. Erica grinned. "Oh, macaroons. I love them."

"Yeah. Why don't you try one?" Kaitlyn opened the paper bag and took out the macaroons.

Erica selected a brown one and took a bite. Sure enough, it tasted familiar. "Hmm, yummy!" Sweet but not greasy. She closed her eyes and enjoyed the taste.

Kaitlyn also ate one. Then she asked, "What are you planning on shooting today?"

"I want to do a portrait, so Hyatt went to get the camera. I happen to need a subject to shoot. Would you like to be my model?" Kaitlyn had a good figure and could serve as a model.

The young woman hesitated for a while. With a brief nod, she said, "Okay, my boyfriend has photographed me several times before. I think I know what to do."

"Thank you! Would you like to try some of the clothes?" Erica pointed at a rack of clothes not far away.

"Okay!" Kaitlyn selected two items of clothing and went into the changing room.

While Erica was setting up the camera, Kaitlyn's phone rang, and she answered it. When she said "cousin," Erica's curiosity was piqued.

'Her cousin? Could it be Phoebe or Camille?'

Erica didn't like to eavesdrop on others, but as this conversation was between Kaitlyn and one of the Campbell sisters, she moved two steps closer to the changing room.

"A house? Didn't you just pay Matthew ten million? What? He didn't ask you for the money? Shhhh. I need to keep my voice down. Erica is outside!" She then began to whisper so softly that

Erica had to go closer to hear their conversation.

"No, I won't do it, not even if you give me five million. Erica and I are good friends now! I won't do terrible things for you anymore. Is it true that Matthew didn't ask you to pay the ten million? Oh, my God! Why was he so forgiving and generous? Is he still in love with you? Poor Erica!"

Erica's mind went blank when she heard Kaitlyn's comments. 'How could Matthew not ask Phoebe to compensate him? Is that the reason

why he didn't give me the card?'

Erica's insecurities flared again. It didn't help that she hadn't seen Matthew in days! She could no longer focus on either the conversation or the photo-shoot she had planned.

She lowered her head in defeat and set the camera aside. Absentmindedly, she adjusted the aperture and sensitivity of the camera. When Kaitlyn stepped out, Erica said, "I'm sorry, but I've decided not to take any photos today. Change your clothes, please."

Confusion coursed through Kaitlyn, and she asked, "Why did you change your mind?" She seemed to think of something and approached Erica. "By the way, Erica, Phoebe just called me! She asked me to take you to a bar, but I refused. Be careful. It looks like she is planning something."

Erica silently stared at the girl for a while.

Afraid that she might not believe her, Kaitlyn hurriedly raised her hand and vowed, "I swear that I didn't agree to help Phoebe. If I had, I wouldn't have told you."

#### CHAPTER 1327 A FEMALE SECRETARY

"I know. You can leave now. I have something else to do, and then I'll go home!" Erica said a bit harshly. She wasn't in a good mood.

Kaitlyn nodded and answered, "Okay, I'll go change my clothes!"

After Kaitlyn left the studio, Erica took out the cellphone from her pocket and scrolled through the messages she had exchanged with Matthew. The last one was from over ten days ago. It was a short text from him—"Hmm."

They hadn't sent any more messages since then.

All of a sudden, a terrible thought popped into her head. Although Debbie had told her that Matthew was on a business trip in Mipburg, she couldn't help wondering if he had been with Phoebe all these days.

However, as soon as the thought came, she shook her head. It was impossible! She must be imagining things.

She didn't know whether Phoebe had given the ten million to Matthew or not, but if she hadn't heard Kaitlyn answering the phone today, she wouldn't have considered asking Matthew about it.

After all, she trusted him and had no reason to doubt that he would accept the money from Phoebe.

Yet now, she wasn't so sure about it anymore.

With so many conflicting thoughts occupying her mind, she pressed the video call button immediately to speak to Matthew.

It took a long time for the video call to connect, but when it did, a woman's face came into the screen. Erica's heart sank as the other woman smiled at her. "Mrs. Hilton, Matthew is in a meeting. He didn't take his phone with him. Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Who are you?" Erica asked.

"Mrs. Hilton, I'm Matthew's secretary, Ana."

'His secretary? Ana?' Erica stared at the beautiful female secretary on the screen for a while. Neither of them said anything. However, Ana kept smiling as she waited for her orders.

Erica still didn't understand why Matthew would hand over his private phone to his secretary. This wasn't usual of him. "Where is this meeting taking place?"

"In the hotel's conference room. I'm at Matthew's room to sort out some files."

'Is the secretary in Matthew's room now?' Erica grew more and more uncomfortable. "Give him the phone, I want to speak to him," she demanded.

Ana hesitated for a moment. "Mrs. Hilton, Matthew is in the middle of a meeting. It's a very important one. None of the attendants have their phones with them. If it's not something urgent, I'll ask Matthew to call you back after the meeting is over."

'She'll ask my husband to call me back? Who on earth does she think she is?' Erica shook her head emotionlessly. "I want to speak to him now." She had serious suspicions that Ana was covering for Matthew. She had never seen him leaving his private cellphone behind to attend a meeting, not to mention with a secretary.

At least, in Alorith, the same had never happened to Paige or Owen. Was this secretary that she had never seen more capable than the other two assistants? If so, why hadn't Matthew brought her to work in the headquarters?

"Mrs. Hilton, Matthew really can't answer the phone now." Ana was starting to realize that the CEO's wife was a little unreasonable and didn't quite know when to quit.

Noticing the hesitating look on the secretary's face, Erica swallowed her next words. Maybe Matthew really couldn't answer the phone at the moment. She didn't insist any longer. "Okay. Just forget it." Whether he would call her back or not, it didn't matter. In the end, she didn't have anything important to tell him anyway.

"Okay, bye, Mrs. Hilton!" Erica then pressed the button to end the video call.

Putting her phone away, she shouted to Hyatt, who had been silently taking photos of a vase nearby, "Let's go, Hyatt!"

"Okay, I'm coming!" Hyatt quickly put the vase back to where it belonged before he followed Erica.

The moment Erica stepped outside the studio, the bodyguard immediately walked over her and greeted, "Erica!"



Erica nodded. "Call the driver. I'm heading back home."

"Didn't you have a shooting for this afternoon?" he asked curiously. That same morning, he had heard her making arrangements for it.

Erica looked up at the sky and answered, "I'm not going anymore. Now all I want is to go home and take a nap." In fact, she needed to go home and sleep for a few hours to relieve her from the current bad mood she was in.

"Yes, Erica."

After enduring a meeting that started at eight in the morning and ended at one in the afternoon, Matthew returned to his room, where he found his secretary still printing some documents. Loosening his tie, he asked, "Do I have any missed calls?"

Ana came over him and handed him back his phone very carefully. "Yes. You've got a call from Time Group's CEO and a video call from your wife."

'Did Erica video call me?' He took the phone from Ana and immediately checked his WeChat as he asked, "Did she say anything?"

"No. I told her that you couldn't answer the call because you were in an important meeting. But Mrs. Hilton didn't take it very well and insisted on speaking to you. Although I explained to her that none of the attendants in this meeting had their phones with them, she still got mad. Matthew, would you like to be alone now to talk to Mrs. Hilton?" Ana asked in a low voice.

Matthew glanced at the video record. It was a one-minute call. Raising his head, he met Ana's eyes. He wasn't satisfied with her way of handling this situation. He said without a hint of emotion in his voice, "Next time my wife insists on talking to me while I'm in a meeting, you must send me the phone. It doesn't matter how important the meeting is."

Since that was her first mistake, he didn't see the need to argue any further.

After her initial shock, Ana nodded immediately. "Yes, Matthew!"

"Get out!" he commanded. "Okay, Matthew!"

The next moment, she left the room. When Matthew was finally on his own, he sat on the sofa and called his wife back.

It didn't take long for the pregnant woman to answer the phone, but instead of bringing the device to her face, she left it lying on bed with its front camera aiming to the bedroom ceiling. She lay silently beside her phone, waiting for him to speak.

Matthew had a glimpse from the woman in her pajamas as she quickly passed through the screen, so he asked, "Were you sleeping?"

"No." Although she was ready to take a nap, she was still awake.

"You called me earlier. What did you want to say?"

"Nothing."

Matthew was silent. Suddenly the video call turned quiet as she didn't say anything either.

After a while, he gave in and said, "If you have something you want to say, you can say it now. I'm alone in the room." He wanted to hear her say that she missed him.

But he never saw her next words coming.

"Oh, so the secretary has left?" The girl unexpectedly raised her voice sarcastically.

Feeling what seemed to be the start of a migraine, Matthew closed his eyes and ignored her sarcasm. "Yes."

"Wow, I really envy you, Matthew.

Despite being on a business trip, you still have such a beautiful secretary to keep you company. Will she also be sleeping in your room at night?" Matthew frowned deeply. "What nonsense are you talking now?"

'She really needs to be taught a lesson!' he thought. 'She dares to provoke me because I'm abroad and can't deal with her, huh?'

"I'm not talking nonsense. But let's be honest, your secretary is so beautiful that even I am attracted to her." She didn't fail to notice that Ana was not only wearing black silk stockings but also a pair of red high-heeled shoes, which made her look so sexy.

However, Matthew wasn't interested in discussing his secretary. "I'll be back soon. Be good at home."

"Don't you think I'm being good? What kind of woman is good for you then, Matthew?" she asked. Every time that Matthew would ask her to be good, she couldn't stop the feeling that he had created this concept of a perfect woman in his head that he wanted her to follow.

At that moment, the call went silent again. Matthew's eyes dimmed as he touched the screen of the phone with his fingertips and answered, "I just don't want you to see another man. That's all."

CHAPTER 1328 CAR WARS

"I see a lot of guys every day. I go to school, you know. Those classes are co-ed. What's going to make you happy? Tying them up and pushing them into a crocodile pit one by one?"

Erica snapped. Matthew knew she said that to annoy him.

The doorbell rang. Matthew put down his phone and opened the door. "Matthew, it's time to head to the hotel," said Ana.

"I see," he answered, and left the door open. He went back to his room and picked up his phone to tell the woman on the other end, "Have a good rest."

"Going somewhere?" she asked.

"I have a business lunch. Boring, but it has to be taken care of." He tidied up his clothes and strode out of the room.

"Why did I hear a woman's voice?" Erica asked suspiciously.

The man smiled and asked gently, "Do you mind?"

"Of course! You're my husband. Why wouldn't I mind?" she answered without even thinking about it.

Glancing at the female secretary outside the door, Matthew said, "Don't worry. It's just business. Your husband is as loyal as ever."

Realizing she was jealous, Erica picked up her phone on the bed and said awkwardly, "I don't care what you do, really. Bye!"

Then she hung up the phone.

Matthew chuckled to himself as he reviewed the chat logs between him and his wife. Sometimes he could laugh at the absurd.

As soon as he got into the car, he turned and told Ana, "I need you at the company this afternoon. Get Seth on the line. We have things to discuss."

Ana was confused. "What's wrong, Matthew?" "Did I do something wrong?" she wondered.

"Nope. Just get it done," he said. He didn't tell her his wife seemed to be jealous of him having a female secretary by his side. He decided not to add fuel to the fire.

Even though Ana had a thousand questions bouncing around in her head, she was still a dutiful employee. She did what he wanted without questioning it out loud. "Yes, Matthew."

Erica hated herself, because she couldn't stop thinking about it. She sent another message to Matthew, asking him about Phoebe. "Has Phoebe wired you the money?"

Matthew wasn't thinking about it, because he didn't give a damn about ten million. He made a lot more than that in an hour. He called Owen and asked him to check on it before he replied to Erica, "No."

There were still ten days left before the deadline. If the money wasn't there after that, Phoebe would definitely know what the inside of a jail cell looked like. Matthew might keep her there for a few years, too.

Erica's heart sank at his reply. She tried not to think too much about it. Phoebe had another ten days, after all.

It was noon, and Erica roused herself from her nap. She walked across her room in the Hilton family manor, assembling her things for school.

As soon as she hit the parking lot, she saw a car rolling slowly away from the manor gate.

She knew better than anyone else who owned that car. It was Matthew's Emperor.

Remembering she was still angry with him, Erica gritted her teeth and got into her car.

But on the way out of the manor grounds, her driver had to brake the car to a halt.

'He did this on purpose,' she cursed inwardly.

Yes, Matthew did it on purpose. His wife wanted to run away when she saw him in the distance. There was no way he would let this happen.

Matthew asked the driver to park the car in the middle of the road—crossways across both lanes. As a result, Erica's car was unable to get through.

After this happened, though, the people in the Emperor didn't seem to want to get out.

Erica's eyes fell on the back seat of the other car. She could vaguely see a man sitting on the right-hand side, but because there were two front windshields, she couldn't quite make out who it was.

The person on the other side was probably glaring at her, because she felt his burning gaze.

Who else was that arrogant except Matthew? It had to be him.

The driver looked at the woman in the back seat of the car and started awkwardly, "Erica..."

Erica looked out the window and said, "Back up. Find another way out."

After retreating more than ten meters, there was still a fork in the road, which also led to the gate of the manor.

"Yes, Erica!"

As if he knew what she had planned, the Emperor car simply turned around, heading down that road. At that speed, Matthew would reach the gate to the manor first. Then he did the same thing, parking the car perpendicular to the road.

Therefore, Erica's car couldn't go anywhere. Blocked in the same way for the second time.

She'd had enough of this. She opened the door and left the car angrily. She came to the Emperor and knocked on the window.

The window to the back seat rolled down slowly. The man sitting there was Matthew.

The pregnant woman fought down her longing for him and shouted, "Matthew, what the fuck? Why are you blocking the way out? I need to get to school. If I'm late, that's your fault."

Owen, who was sitting in the driver's seat, wanted to laugh but held it in. He had to stifle his laughter and pretend not to hear a word they said.

Matthew opened the door, got out and scooted over for her. "Get in the car!"

"What are you doing?" She rolled her eyes at him.

"Taking you to school!" They hadn't seen each other for more than ten days. He missed her so much.

Erica snorted and refused, "No, thanks. I have a car and a bodyguard. Please don't bother, Matthew." She knew that addressing him like that would annoy him.

Unexpectedly, Matthew waved at the driver who was driving Erica's car. The driver immediately understood and headed straight to the parking lot.

Erica couldn't stop the car and watched it roll away.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, Matthew told her, "Now you don't have a car or a bodyguard." Saying that, he picked her up and put her into the car, ordering the driver to head to the school.

On the way, Matthew kept holding the woman's soft hand, not letting go of her no matter how hard she struggled.

She opened her mouth to bitch at him, but whenever she did that he covered her lips with his, kissing

her fiercely.

It was quiet in the car. Owen kept his eyes on the road and focused on driving. He didn't dare to glance behind him.

Matthew kissed her until she was short of breath. But just before she might pass out, he put something into her hand and released her.

The woman gasped when she saw what he had given her. It was a bracelet made of aquamarines and diamonds. Each aquamarine was about half the size of a fingernail, in the shape of a melon seed. The colorless diamonds were smaller than the aquamarines. There were about a dozen aquamarines and a dozen diamonds in the bracelet, which just sparkled on its own. Erica had never seen something so beautiful.

She stopped gasping for air. 'Is it a gift from Matthew?'

He brought her a gift every time he came back from a business trip. She didn't care too much, she was usually just glad to have him home.

Earrings, perfume, bracelets...

When she looked at the bracelet carefully, Matthew took it back from her. Seeing her confused look, he said quietly, "Stretch out your left hand."

Reflexively, Erica stretched out her left hand. She wore a famous watch he had personally chosen for her at a watch exhibition on her left wrist.

Matthew moved her watch aside and put the bracelet on her wrist.

Now she wore a watch and a bracelet on her slender wrist, and it looked like the most natural thing in the world.

The man kissed the back of her hand and announced arrogantly, "I brought you a gift! Since you're wearing it, you can't be angry with me!"

When did she say she even wanted it? The girl blushed and retorted, "Yeah, right! When did I get a choice in this? You put it on me!" He was still holding her wrist. He hadn't let go yet.

A subtle smile appeared in Matthew's eyes. He nodded and said, "Yes, I insisted on buying it for you. You wouldn't accept it, but I insisted you wear it. You can't stay mad."

CHAPTER 1329 A NEW COUPLE

When she heard what Matthew said, Erica nodded in a hurry. "Yes! But—" She tried to protest. She was still mad, after all.

Matthew held her in his arms and kissed her forehead. "Well, good luck in class. If you don't have any after-school activities, let me know." He meant well, but it was one more way to exert control. She was used to making her way home and hanging out with Hyatt.

"Okay!" Since he insisted on buying her a gift to please her, she reluctantly agreed.

She felt pretty good. When she didn't think it through a whole lot, Matthew seemed like a great guy.

In class, Erica copied what she saw on the projector screen. She took notes that she could use later to study for the exams.

Suddenly, her phone vibrated. It was a WeChat message from Rhea. "Hey, I'll tell you a secret. Don't tell anyone else!"

"What is it?" she replied casually and continued to take notes.

Two minutes later, stunned by the message from Rhea, she put her hand over her wide-open mouth. Then she turned to look at Hyatt. Finally coming to her senses, she wrote back, "What? You must be kidding me, right? Or am I seeing things?"

Sitting next to her, Hyatt was also busy taking notes. He didn't know Erica had been staring at him at all.

Rhea replied, "No, you're not crazy. I am. For Hyatt. He's sweet and innocent and probably won't cheat on me. So what do you think?"

Looking at the phone, Erica rubbed her eyes and made sure she wasn't hallucinating.

Rhea sent her another message asking, "Are you okay? You're quiet. I bet you never expected that, huh?"

Erica cooperatively typed a series of question marks and sent them to her. She was really confused. She didn't understand why Rhea made such a decision.

'Rhea and Hyatt?

She's so overbearing, and he's so quiet and...and...just not her type.'

At this moment, Erica was very worried about Hyatt.

"I don't believe in love anymore. All of the good ones are taken, it seems. And so when it's time to get married, I wouldn't be able to find a good man anywhere. So, I figure, why don't I just get with Hyatt? At

least I can get him to do what I want. He's pliable like that. Am I wrong?"

Erica nodded. But when she realized that Rhea couldn't see her, she quickly typed on her phone, "No, you're right." If Hyatt had a girlfriend, he would be loyal to her, promising the moon and plucking it from the sky if he had to.

He was not a cheater, and he'd probably be very loyal. So she'd have nothing to be jealous about.

Therefore, as long as Rhea could stand him being shy and timid, he seemed to be a good catch.

Erica took a look at the person next to her. The bespectacled fool didn't know some girl had set her sights on him. He copied the notes seriously and sometimes furrowed his eyebrows when he found some bit of knowledge he didn't get.

"So, sis. You gonna help me?" Rhea asked.

"Of course, I'm on your side. Anyway, you know him pretty well by now. I think as long as you don't mind how shy he is, you'll get along great!" Erica replied.

"Okay, honey. I knew you would support me! Love you! Muah!"

Erica replied with a shy emoji, "I love you too. Always!" After sending that message, she sighed again.

If only she could confess to Matthew that easily. But she wasn't exactly sure how he'd take it.

Erica was convinced Matthew still didn't love her. Their love hadn't succeeded yet, and she still needed to work hard!

After class, Erica laid her head on the table, feeling sleepy. Suddenly, Hyatt patted her on the arm.

Erica opened one of her eyes, and saw Hyatt's face flush with excitement. Not realizing that Erica was looking at him, Hyatt patted her on the arm again.

Erica sat up straight helplessly. "Bro, what's the matter? Just say it."

He was so excited that people who didn't know him might think there was a huge celebrity coming to class.

Hyatt shook his phone excitedly in front of her face and didn't know what to start. Finally, he showed the phone to her.

Erica took the phone and glanced at it. But soon she took a second look, and her eyes got so wide she feared they might pop out of her head.



On the screen was a WeChat message from Rhea saying, "Hyatt, I broke up with my boyfriend. I think you're a great guy. Would you be my boyfriend? You don't have a girlfriend, right? If you do, I'll leave you alone. All I know is I'm crazy for you and wanna get together."

'Damn! That was fast. I hope he knows what he's getting into!' Rhea acted like if she confessed her love to Hyatt later, he'd already be snatched up by someone else.

Erica looked at Hyatt again. He was trembling with excitement!

'Well, this might be the first time a girl's confessed to him since he was a kid, ' she thought to herself. 'Rhea is pretty hot, I have to admit that. If I were Hyatt, I'd be happy too!'

"Don't get so excited. Chill out. Just answer her. Do you wanna go out with her or not?" Erica reminded him helplessly.

Hyatt grabbed his phone, with his trembling hands, and typed a word on it, "Okay."

'Okay?

That's it?' Erica witnessed the birth of a new couple, brought forth with just a single word, "Okay."

They were her two best friends, and they got together in record time.

'Well, I always admired Rhea!' She patted on Hyatt's shoulder and said, "Dude, don't forget to buy me some snacks to celebrate!"

"No problem." Hyatt kept staring at the chat log between him and Rhea, unwilling to look away.

When the bell rang, Erica dozed off once more. Hyatt tapped her again and whispered, "Erica, it's not April Fool's, is it?" He still couldn't believe that Rhea wanted to be his girlfriend.

'This man is hopeless!' She simply closed her eyes and ignored him.

'Nah, it couldn't be April Fool's Day. We just had International Workers' Day last month, ' he thought. 'So...no. I guess this is real.'

After the class, the two walked out of class together. Hyatt had a silly smile on his face ever since he saw the text. Erica asked him, "Hyatt, why did you agree to be Rhea's boyfriend?" If he said he liked her, she figured he'd be lying. He never talked about her before.

Hyatt smiled shyly and replied, "If she really likes me, I should like her, shouldn't I?" 'Otherwise, she'd be pretty sad, ' he thought. Erica was confused by his logic. "Are you serious? What if someone else likes you? Do you just decide to love her too?"

However, to her surprise, he stopped her and said seriously, "No, I won't. I have Rhea now. I can't cheat on her!"

'Fine! Anyway, Hyatt only likes Rhea! And that's what matters, ' she mused.

Hyatt started badgering Erica about this or that. Since he was so far away from Rhea, he didn't know what he could do for her. "Maybe some gifts? Candy? Flowers? Should I call her every morning to wake her, and ring her up at bedtime to say good night? Should I..."

Erica had never been in love before she got married to Matthew. And the marriage was an arranged one. She didn't think Matthew loved her at all, so she couldn't give Hyatt any useful advice. She knew nothing about love.

#### CHAPTER 1330 LET ME TELL YOU FACE TO FACE

Before she went to bed, Erica received a WeChat message from Chantel. "Rika, I just wanted to thank you and Matthew. I'll cherish this opportunity!"

Her eyebrows furrowed. "Huh? What do you mean?" Reading her reply, Chantel wondered why Erica didn't know what she was talking about.

"Do you really not know? Matthew introduced me to the general manager of Global Entertainment to poach me. I assured him that after I give birth to the baby, I will sign a contract with them and begin training!"

Erica was surprised. "Seriously? I really didn't know anything about it. Matthew did that?"

"Yep! The general manager said that it was Matthew who told him about me. I really appreciate it, that's why I wanted to thank you both!" Although they were only chatting through the app, Chantel's excitement was obvious.

Erica got out of bed and ran to the study. She stuck her head out from the door and asked her busy husband who was typing on his computer, "Did you arrange for Chantel to work at Global Entertainment?"

Matthew nodded. He was startled from her sudden appearance at the door.

Since he came across the general manager at a meeting last time, Matthew mentioned Chantel to him while they were talking. After all, she had become his sister-in-law the moment she got married to Gifford.

Chantel's previous performances seemed to have pleased the general manager, so he met with her to talk about signing a contract with them at Global Entertainment.

Erica understood what had happened and seemed delighted. "Chantel asked me to thank you for her!"

"It's my pleasure," Matthew replied like a gentleman.

Chantel was now part of the family, so this kind of arrangement was just a piece of cake for him.

His pregnant wife slept a lot recently. Although Matthew had finished his work early, he found that Erica had already fallen asleep when he returned to the bedroom.

Nonetheless, he was satisfied with the fact that he could sleep with his wife in his arms. Matthew didn't take her with him when he had a business trip a few days ago, so he could not fall asleep at night. He always felt that something was missing by his side.

Every night he was away, he would wonder if this heartless woman had ever missed him in the middle of the night.

When she tried to fix the blanket over her shoulder with her eyes closed, Matthew realized that he had been staring at her wife and watching her sleep. As soon as he lay down and held her, Erica turned over and wrapped her arms around him.

He smiled, lowered his head to kiss her, and embraced her tightly in his arms.

While he leaned his face on hers, he smelled her familiar fragrance. Matthew knew that he could finally have a good sleep.

The next afternoon, Erica received an announcement from the Photography Association of Alorith that there would be a photography activity happening the next day at the Blessing Palace. All the members of the association were invited to participate.

The Blessing Palace was a scenic spot with a long history. In ancient times, it was an emperor's temporary imperial palace. To this day, it still looked well-preserved—a magnificent view for a photo shoot.

Erica tugged at Hyatt while he was texting Rhea and said, "Tomorrow morning!"

Hyatt knew exactly what she was talking about. He fixed his glasses and asked, "Can you get up early?"

Recently, she had been experiencing drowsiness due to pregnancy that she found it difficult to get up on time in the morning.

"Of course, I can. I'll set an alarm!" The weather was getting hotter and hotter every day, so she hadn't been that reluctant to get out of bed.

"Okay. What kind of camera lens do you want to take?"

"I'll go home and have a look tonight. You can take the newly bought camera lens with you and see if you like that new one."

When he got the money back that Pansy had owed him, Hyatt bought a new camera lens.

"All right, then."

Morning came, and Erica got ready for their activity at the Blessing Palace. On their way there, she asked her bodyguards to pick Hyatt up so they could go together.

As the car approached the venue, people had started to swarm by the gate. She had no idea that Watkins would also be there until she arrived. There was still an unhealed wound on his face, and his arm was still covered in plaster.

Erica thought that, since she had only met him there and didn't come to actually see him, she could greet him and ask him about his current state. Even if Matthew found it out and was angry with her, she still could give him a reasonable explanation.

"Watkins!" He was busy adjusting his camera parameters along with the others. They were surrounded by media equipment from different angles.

Hearing her voice, Watkins turned around and walked towards her with a smile. "Hi, Erica. It's nice to see you here."

She shrugged with her palms up and asked, "Well, how's your injury?"

Watkins took a look at his arm as if trying to convince himself and said, "I'm much better, but my arm needs more time to recover. I came here today because some reporters are here to prepare for an exclusive interview for this activity. Our public relations department is here to assist in the process."

Erica looked astonished. "Oh, I see!" She did see several busy reporters when she got out of the car.

An awkward silence filled the air between them. Watkins looked at her belly and asked, "What about you? How's the baby doing?"

At the mention of the baby, Erica's face lit up with a maternal glow. She gently put her empty hand over her belly and said, "I'm fine. It's still a bit early so there's no big movement yet."

Watkins chuckled as if influenced by her joy. "How far along are you?"

"About three months." Erica was only in her first trimester, but her baby bump was obvious. Wherever she went, she would be offered special care.

Not long ago, Chantel took a photo of her own bump and sent it to Erica. Despite being on her second trimester, Chantel's belly still looked smaller compared to Erica's bump since Erica was carrying twins.

When Watkins and Erica ran out of things to talk about, they both fell silent. Right then, they heard an announcement that the activity would begin.

Watkins signaled Erica that he would go back to his post and walked away. As they entered the palace, a tutor gave the participants some tips first on how to shoot photos before they let them take photos freely.

Erica instructed her bodyguards to stay outside so she could move freely. The palace wasn't open to the public that day, but since the activity was arranged by the Photography Association, they were granted half a day to conduct a photo shoot activity.

The Blessing Palace was kept open especially for them, so there would be no other people inside the palace aside from them. She would be safe even without her bodyguards following her. Besides, Hyatt would be with her all the time. Everything would be fine.

Once inside the palace, Hyatt followed her closely wherever she went.

As much as he wanted to take care of Erica, Hyatt wasn't interested in shooting scenery as much as she was. He was more passionate about taking pictures of people.

Right then, Erica, who was attentively shooting the scenery, accidentally fell into Hyatt's viewfinder and got photographed.

Hyatt took photos from different angles and with different camera settings. When his subject moved, he stopped taking photos and browsed through all his shots. He chose two photos he was quite satisfied with, downloaded them, and sent them to Erica. "Erica, can you check these photos I took? Give me some advice." Hyatt had been learning from her since she was better at photography than him.

Erica turned to look at the photos he was showing her.

One photo was of a pear tree with white blossoms standing beautifully by the red palace wall. Under the tree, a woman in a light purple dress was taking pictures of the dancing white flowers.

The other one was a close-up of Erica's side face when she turned around. Her smiling pretty face was all over the screen, and everything else in the photo was blurred.

She gave him a thumbs up and said proudly, "This is awesome. You made me look so pretty here. If you hadn't snapped a picture of me, I wouldn't have known I'm this beautiful!"

Hyatt laughed, "Hey! Don't say that. You actually look much more beautiful in person than in these pictures." It seemed that the clearest and most beautiful pictures would always be what people could

see with their own eyes.

Erica couldn't stop smiling. "All right, then. I'm going to take that as a compliment!" She pinched her own cheek, which had become rounder since her pregnancy, and walked to find a new subject to shoot.

While she was walking, she quickly edited the pictures Hyatt had taken for her and sent them to Matthew. "Hey, is your wife beautiful?"

Erica continued to search for a different view as she waited for his reply. A few minutes later, her phone vibrated. She was excited to check what Matthew had said. "I'll tell you face to face when you're done with the activity."

She pouted with frustration and dissatisfaction. 'Humph. Is he really so mean that he can't even compliment his own wife?'

After half a day of photography sessions, everyone from the association began to head towards the palace gate. Erica had also felt tired, so she followed them back and browsed through the photos on her camera.

Before they reached the front gate of the Blessing Palace, Erica suddenly caught a glimpse of a figure through the locked yard on the left.