

Too Much to Bear, My Love Chapter 237

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Chapter 237 Vision Turning Black

After reaching a consensus with Jerry, Amelia then headed back to the office in a good mood. When she entered, Oscar kissed her on the cheek and said, "I have a business appointment with someone around noon. Do you want to go with me?"

She glanced at him then asked, "Are you not going back with me?"

"This contract's more important. I booked a place at night. Let's go and have a nice candlelit dinner." He pinched her cheeks, then smiled and continued, "Don't be upset. If you want to come along, then come."

She pondered for a moment before replying, "Forget it. I've no business in going since you're going to talk business. I'm not very interested in your projects either. You can go alone, but if you're meeting a woman, you can only talk business with her. Don't be too enthusiastic. You already have me now."

He could not help but laugh and tap her nose. "What a jealous girl. But it is a beautiful woman who's having lunch with me this time. You can come along if you're worried. I can admire your beauty then."

She bared her teeth and made a threatening gesture. "If you dare to mess around, I'll punish you. You'd better watch out."

He laughed, for she was too cute. They were already married for four to five years, but only then did he realize that she had such a cute side to her.

Thus, he hugged her and said, "Silly girl. You're so cute and lovable. What if I can't ever leave you again?"

Similarly, she could not help but smile. "Then don't. Let's stay together forever. When you're old, I'll say you're the ugliest old man around. No other woman will snatch you away then."

Her words made him feel touched, and he then made a lifetime promise. "Okay." It was a promise he had never made to her before.

Placing her arms around his waist, she then pulled him tighter into the hug.

They stayed like that for a while, and when they finally separated, Oscar pinched her cheek again. "Come with me. Their Coq Au Vin's pretty good. You'll probably like it a lot."

However, she shook her head. "I'll pass. Dad and Mom aren't coming back for lunch today, so I'll go home to eat and accompany Tony too. Although he's with Kurt, I can't bear to leave him for too long either."

“Okay then. Be careful while driving. Also, I’ll solve the issue with Stephanie. But even if she sends the photos to Dad and Mom, don’t panic. I’ll explain it clearly. As long as I’m here, no one can hurt you.”

Amelia felt warm when she heard him say that. With such a strong person to lean back on, she no longer needed to go through any obstacles alone.

“Sorry for causing you trouble again,” she said.

“If you want to make it up to me, give me a kiss.”

She then tiptoed to kiss him on the cheek.

He smiled contently and said, “That’s all for now. Once you’re fully recovered, I’ll make sure you won’t be able to walk.”

She could not help but flush at his words. Nevertheless, she was still happy inside.

They then took the elevator downstairs before he walked her to her car. He kissed her on the lips, then said, “Drive carefully.”

She nodded. “You should go too. Don’t make your client wait too long. Also, don’t drink too much, and remember to eat something before that, or you’ll get a stomachache.”

He tapped her on the nose and smiled. “If you’re so worried about me, why don’t you come along?”

Yet, her reply was to open the door and get into the driver’s seat of her car.

Subsequently, she rolled down the windows. “I’ll get going. Remember to drink less.”

He nodded. “Drive safely.”

After nodding, she rolled up the windows and slowly drove off. Only when he saw her car drive far away did he get into his car and drive in the opposite direction.

Everything was fine at first when she drove. However, she did not expect her vision to suddenly turn black and only return to normal after a few seconds.

She shook her head hard to clear it, only to realize that she had almost hit the car in front in the few seconds that her vision went black. Fortunately, it did not happen. Afterward, she did not dare to continue driving carelessly and merely found a place to stop. Nevertheless, she felt a little doubtful and scared.

In reality, it was not the first time that her vision went black. If it were only once or twice, she could explain it as lethargy. However, it occurred once every few days, which showed that there was indeed some issue with her eyes.

All of a sudden, she got frightened and recalled what Robert said the last time Olivia got discharged. The after-effects of her accident must have been more serious than she thought. Perhaps her eyes would...

Not daring to think any further, she merely gripped the steering wheel more tightly and pressed her lips tightly together. She felt uneasy.

The more she thought, the more she became afraid. In the end, she finally called Tiffany.

Once the call connected, Amelia said straightforwardly, "Be honest, Tiff. Even if I recover after the accident, are there still some potential after-effects that haven't shown themselves yet? Like in the eyes?"

There was a long silence on the other end of the line before Amelia yelled uncertainly, "Tiff?"

"Why are you suddenly asking this? Is something wrong with your eyes?" Tiffany changed the question and asked.

After swallowing her saliva several times, Amelia forced the question out. "You were one of those who was beside me the whole time when I had the accident. You should know my situation very clearly. Tell me honestly. Did my attending doctor say that even if I get better, there's a possibility I may be blind?"

Once again, there was silence on the other end of the line.

As a result, Amelia's heart instantly fell.

She knew Tiffany well. If there was no problem with her body, she would not keep silent.

"I'll be blind, won't I?" said Amelia in a complicated tone.

Tiffany became anxious then. "Don't overthink, Amelia. Back then, Dr. Kane just said that the blood clots in your brain couldn't dissolve temporarily and may press on your optic nerve. But don't worry, medical technology is very advanced now, and James and his mentor both have top-notch skills. If they didn't work together back then, you wouldn't have survived either. So, the odds of getting the blood clot out are still quite good. Don't be scared."

Amelia smiled bitterly. She had lived a normal life for almost thirty years. Thus, she wondered whether or not she could bear the outcome if she became blind in the future. When a normal person suddenly became disabled, they had to adapt to and get used to many things all over again. She could not imagine what it would be like to live in total darkness.

Everything had been going well, but destiny was playing a joke on her then. It gave her a fatal blow when things had only just turned better.

“Don’t think too much, Amelia. I was talking about the worst-case scenario. Did someone talk nonsense in front of you, or did something happen to your sight? Where are you now? I’ll go and see you, and we’ll talk in person. But if something really happens to your eyes, don’t worry. I’ll go with you to the hospital for a checkup. Maybe you’re just tired from taking care of Tony these few days. There won’t be a big problem. Don’t worry, okay? You have me,” said Tiffany soothingly.

After smiling bitterly to herself, Amelia then had to pretend to be optimistic as she replied, “I’m fine. I’m not as fragile as you think. My vision’s just been turning black every few days recently. I think you should come to the hospital with me for a check. If I become blind, I’ll need a lot more of your help in the future.”

“Stop saying that. Where are you now? I’ll go to find you, and we’ll head to the hospital right away. Don’t worry. I think you’re probably too tired these few days. The doctor also said that it was assuming the worse-case scenario. and it won’t happen. Trust me.”

Afterward, Amelia then told her where to meet.

“Okay. Wait there for me.” After a pause, Tiffany then added, “Is Kurt taking care of Tony?”

Amelia merely hummed in reply.

After hanging up, Amelia then watched the blue skies and bright sun outside and fell into a trance. She did not know how long more she could see such a beautiful sight for. Even the sunlight had suddenly become such a luxury item for her.

A healthy person would never see the importance of health. Instead, only when they lay on a hospital bed, put on drips, and had to take medicine did they know how important it was to have a healthy body. Similarly, only when she knew that she could become blind in the future did she feel that being able to see the sunlight was such a blessed thing. I never knew that being able to see the sunlight was a luxury.

Tiffany arrived very quickly after, she ran all the way to Amelia. She was still panting when she stopped.

Amelia patted her back and asked, “Why are you in such a hurry?”

After taking in a few deep breaths, Tiffany replied aggrievedly, “I was afraid you’d overthink if you waited too long.”

Amelia felt warm inside when she heard that.

After catching her breath, Tiffany then looked at her and asked, “What’s wrong with your sight? Were you really not able to see just now?”

"My vision turned black when I was driving just now. I almost hit the car in front and caused an accident," Amelia replied, deliberately trying to speak calmly. Nevertheless, Tiffany was frightened by the news.

She looked Amelia up and down worriedly. "Are you okay? Your situation's too serious. We must go to the hospital."

"I don't want to go to Principal General Hospital. Mr. Lancaster's close with the Clintons, so I'm afraid he'll purposely make my situation sound less serious because he's worried that I'll be scared. If I do become blind one day, I don't want to stay with the Clinton family. I want to maintain a beautiful image to Oscar."

Tiffany felt heartbroken upon hearing her words but suppressed the feeling and scolded her. "Stop overthinking. If you keep belittling yourself like this, I'll get angry."

She then took Amelia's hand and continued, "Let's go. If you don't want to go to that hospital, we'll go somewhere else. Don't worry too much. Your eyes will be fine. You've already escaped death, so things will surely go well for you from now on. Don't overthink, or I feel like beating you up for it. It's not like a young lady to be so pessimistic."

Amelia merely smiled bitterly in response.

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Chapter 238 Throbbing

Tiffany then drove Amelia to Provincial Hospital, for she happened to know a doctor there. After that, she used her connections to get Amelia a series of checkups from experts.

By the time the checks were done, two hours had already passed. Amelia sat very nervously in front of the doctor. When Tiffany noticed her state, she patted her back to soothe her then asked, "Dr. Zalman, how's Amelia's situation?"

Harold, the doctor, carefully read the examination report then said, "She had an accident before, didn't she?"

Tiffany nodded.

He continued, "She's recovering quite well, but she should still be careful, or there might be side effects. There are not many issues with her body, but we can only have the report for the brain tomorrow. Anyway, you have to be mentally prepared. The blood clot in her brain already began to move and could press on the optic nerve. We can only get a better picture when we see the report tomorrow; so, don't be too nervous for now."

Tiffany then glanced at Amelia nervously and swallowed. "Will the blood clot cause blindness?"

Harold looked at her solemnly and replied, "Truthfully, if her condition becomes severe, she may go blind. But medical technology's very advanced now, so as long as we can find a suitable cornea, we can resolve the problem. In any case, don't jump to conclusions so quickly. This is merely the worst-case scenario. When Ms. Winters gets better, the blood clot may also dissolve by itself. As I said, we'll discuss this again when we have the report tomorrow."

Amelia's heart sank when she heard his words.

Meanwhile, Tiffany replied, "Thank you, Dr. Zalman. We'll come again tomorrow for the report."

He nodded. "Sure. I suggest you bring her previous report too. We can use it as a reference to better work out a treatment plan for her."

"Okay, we'll bring it over tomorrow."

Once they left the hospital, Tiffany then patted Amelia and said, "Don't be like this. The doctor already said that it's the worst-case scenario. You're so nice that I can guarantee the heavens won't let you suffer so much that they weren't even willing to take your life. You still have a lot of good luck. Don't worry."

Amelia shrugged. "I'm fine. Don't worry. I've experienced many things, so I can handle this. Anyway, even if I become blind, I'll be the most beautiful blind lady. I still have Tony, so I won't do anything stupid."

Tiffany's heart ached even more when she heard that. She keeps putting on a fearless, strong front but doesn't know that it makes others feel sorry for her.

Such a woman deserved all the good things in the world. Unfortunately, the heavens had decided to play jokes on her. Although she may have stayed alive, she might lose her sight instead.

The eyes were said to be the windows to the soul. Thus, without sight, a person's world was doomed to be dark. After all, how could one's world be lit up when the windows were closed.

Tiffany hugged her, then said, "No matter what happens, we're all by your side, Amelia. Tony and I will always be your family. Medical technology's very advanced now, so as long as we find a compatible cornea, it'll be okay. Don't put too much pressure on yourself."

Amelia smiled. "I'm fine. Don't worry. You can go back first if you have something on. I'll take a cab and head back later."

Tiffany looked at her. "I'll send you home. Your sight's not very good now, so don't drive during this period of time. I'll drive over to the Clintons' to take you

to the hospital tomorrow. I know you don't want Oscar to find out about this, for the time being, so don't worry; I won't say anything to him before you agree."

Amelia felt grateful to her. Tiffany was able to read her mind from a mere glance. Sometimes, she even knew her better than Oscar. If Tiffany were male, perhaps they would be soulmates, since they had a lot of chemistry. It was a pity they were both females, so they could only be best friends.

"Thank you, Tiff."

"Let's go. Stop saying such things. If you say thank you too much, I'll feel very odd and distant from you."

Thus, Amelia did not speak anymore.

Once she got in the car, Amelia was silent the rest of the ride back. She seemed to be thinking about something and was not interested in anything else.

When they arrived at the Clintons' doorstep, Tiffany said, "We're here, Amelia. I still have a manuscript I haven't submitted to Shannon, so I won't go in. Help me say hi to Mrs. Clinton. I'll come to visit Tony tomorrow."

Amelia unbuckled her seatbelt and asked, "Come in for a cup of tea?"

"Nah, you go ahead. She wants the manuscript urgently, so I still have to rush it out overnight. Don't overthink, okay? Don't forget that you still have Tony and me. Everything will be okay. Do you understand?"

Amelia nodded in reply.

Then, only when Tiffany drove off did she enter the house. The guard at the gates greeted her very respectfully, so she politely greeted him back as well.

Once she entered the hall, Maggie said, "Have you eaten, Ms. Amelia? I have prepared food for you and Mr. Oscar, but he called to say he wouldn't be eating. You weren't here either, and Ms. Stephanie left right after you. Mr. and Mrs. Clinton aren't back too. If you haven't eaten, I'll go and warm the food now."

Amelia smiled gently. "It's fine. I've already eaten. Go and rest. I'll go upstairs to see Tony."

"Sure."

Afterward, Amelia then headed upstairs to Tony's room. Kurt, who had been sitting on the sofa with his eyes closed, immediately vigilantly opened them. However, he relaxed once he saw that it was her.

"Ma'am," he greeted her respectfully.

She smiled at him gently, then walked over to the crib to watch Tony as he slept soundly. Miraculously, her anxiety instantly disappeared.

She looked at him nostalgically and could not help but caress his small face. There was also a flicker of sadness in her gaze.

After all, they had both been through a life-and-death experience. Initially, she thought that everything would be over once they survived. Yet, she did not expect that the heavens would play such a joke on her. Although they gave her a new life, they wanted to take her sight away. Can I even complain that they are unfair?

Aware of how strange she was acting, Kurt, who had always upheld the thought that silence was golden, spoke. "Is... Is there something on your mind?"

She then looked at him somewhat in surprise. She had thought that he would only act loyally according to orders but did not expect his observation skills to be that strong.

"Why did you say that?" she asked after suppressing all her emotions.

He pondered for a while, then replied, "I can tell you're unhappy." Afterward, he became silent again, as if he was uncomfortable with such ordinary communication. Hence, he did not speak coherently either. "If you don't mind, you can tell me about it. I won't tell anyone."

Upon hearing his words, Amelia felt warm inside. At least the silent man in front of her had a warm heart. Aside from carrying out his orders, he was not merely a cold, heartless person.

"Thank you, Kurt," she said sincerely.

As a result, he was stunned for a moment. He did not know why she would thank him, but his calm heart could not help but ripple a little. He also seemed to feel a slight throbbing from deep inside his heart. Although it was an unfamiliar feeling, he was not repelled by it. On the contrary, it felt very novel.

"Don't get me wrong. You've been taking care of Tony during this period, but you have great skills, so you're sort of wasting your talents by staying by my side. If you're unwilling, I can send you back to Oscar," she said with a smile.

He frowned and replied, "Since Boss sent me here, I've taken you as my ma'am. I'll only take orders from you. Also, I like Tony, so I don't think it's wasting my talents. I'm used to hiding in the dark, so taking care of him actually calms my nerves. At least, I can avoid many things I don't want to do, like killing."

She immediately widened her eyes in surprise at that, for he had mentioned killing so casually.

"Killing?" she asked, thinking that he was merely joking.

She did not expect him to nod seriously in response. In reality, he did not think it was anything sensational at all.

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Chapter 239 Punishment

Kurt calmly explained, "There are always some disobedient little characters who are always showing off and messing things up. It is not convenient for Boss to take action. Naturally, we bodyguards will deal with them."

Seeing that he was so calm, Amelia slowly pulled herself together. She suspected that with a group as large as the Clinton Corporations, many operations were not as simple as they seemed on the surface and many things were done in the dark. As for murder, she thought it was not altogether improbable. After all, we often do things against our will.

"Are you shocked?" Kurt glanced at Amelia thoughtfully and asked earnestly.

Amelia nodded and smiled. "A little and I'm surprised that you would tell me this."

"I'm instructed to protect you. Naturally, I will only be loyal to you. I can tell you whatever you want to know. Of course, if you don't want to know such bloody facts, I shall keep silent." Kurt's expression was very serious giving the impression that everything he said was out of sincerity.

Amelia concluded that this tall strong man was steadfast in human relationships. He was not a versatile person who could play by ear but rather loyal, unchanging and faithful to his employer.

She believed that Oscar had sent him because he liked his loyalty.

Amelia changed the subject. "Have you eaten?"

Kurt nodded.

"The maid sent me some food."

Amelia looked at Tony who was sound asleep and spoke affectionately. "Tony is fine with me taking care of him. Why don't you go out and stretch your limbs? It must be difficult for you as a man to just watch over a child all day. When he's bigger, you can go back to Oscar. It seems like a waste of talent to have you with me."

Kurt did not reply but walked towards the window and turned around. "Ma'am, call me when you need me. I'll be nearby." With that, he climbed out of the window and disappeared from Amelia's view.

Initially, Amelia was surprised by Kurt's ability to come and go without a trace. After seeing him do so several times like performing a magic show, she gradually got used to it.

Amelia squatted beside the crib, gazing intently at Tony who was smacking his lips in his sleep and she could not help but smile.

She reached out and touched Tony's little face. Then, her eyes turned sorrowful and she whispered, "Tony, I might become blind. If I can, I really want to watch you quietly for a lifetime. Watch you grow up slowly, have a girlfriend, get married, and have children. Then, I will help you take care of your children, listening to your children affectionately calling me 'grandma.' But, I'm afraid that day might never come. I am afraid I would become a burden to you before you grow up. I can only tell myself, Amelia, you are the best, you have even been to the gates of hell. There is nothing terrifying. However..."

Amelia's eyes became tearful as she realized that she was not as strong as she thought. She was really quite fragile but there was no one she could rely on so she had forced herself to grow up and stay strong. Gradually, she became what outsiders saw as an iron lady.

"Tony, I'm afraid I will wake up one day and find that I can longer see. I won't be able to see your lovely face or your daddy. I'm afraid as time passes, I won't remember what you and your daddy look like. Tell me what I should do?"

Amelia could not help but break out in sobs. She had held back for too long. The sum of her misfortunes pressed down on her. Stephanie's relentless persecution with the Clintons' permission and the possibility of blindness seemed too much to bear and she felt breathless.

Oscar was the shoulder she leaned on but she dared not tell him that she was turning blind. She did not want him to see her become useless one day as she would feel really bad.

She sat down finally, resting her head gently on the baby's bed. Perhaps it was Tony's presence that allayed her fears a little.

"Tony, tell me. What is your daddy doing now? If he knows that I will become blind one day, will he still love me?" Softly, Amelia asked but after that, she felt her question was especially childish.

She could not help but laugh as she whispered, "Tony, don't you think I'm particularly naïve? I feel so. If your daddy sees me like this, I'm afraid he'll say that I'm a sentimental fool who is not fiery and strong like before. He will say that he has really misjudged me, thinking that I was a sexy, passionate and independent woman."

She laughed and talked but as she spoke, she was overcome with sadness and tears rolled down her cheeks. It was only in front of the pure and innocent Tony that she dared reveal her weaknesses. In front of others, she was still the unbreakable and sexy lady.

Amelia brushed the tears from her face, quite disgusted with her meltdown.

Her sorrow was fleeting, overwhelming her suddenly and fading away swiftly. She calmed herself quickly and smiled at Tony. "Tony, grow up quickly so even if I really become blind, you and your daddy will become my eyes. See all of Chanaea and describe its loveliness in words to me. Oh dear, after such a long speech. I wonder if your daddy has finished his negotiation about his project."

Meanwhile, Oscar was sitting on a soft sofa staring with an icy gaze at Stephanie who was being pinned down by two bodyguards.

Blood trickled from the corner of Stephanie's lips as she looked at her elder brother and spoke with difficulty. "Oscar, what did I do wrong?"

He looked at her with a gaze devoid of any feelings. "I'm teaching you a lesson since you wouldn't follow my instructions to leave Amelia alone. She is my wife so let me make the decisions concerning her. You're born with a silver spoon so you should not stoop so low as to resort to dirty tricks. I will treat you the same way you treat her so you could grow in wisdom. Don't just target her at every turn."

"Oscar, I'm your only sister. In the past, your heart would ache if I even hurt my finger. Now, you have me beaten up now and again for a woman. You treat me worse than animals are treated. If our parents found out about this, do you think they would be happy?" Besides fear, Stephanie was full of hatred as she believed that all she had done was for the family's good. She could not see why Amelia was worthy of all the love so many people were showering upon her.

"I have warned you not to touch her. You think you are so smart, planning a car accident to harm her. For our parents' sake, I let you off, but it doesn't mean that I have forgiven you. You are wrong to attack her, again and again, testing my patience. You should be thankful that you are my sister, or else, you would be just a silent corpse now." Oscar spoke without emotion, but to Stephanie's listening ears, it sounded ever so creepy.

Stephanie rolled her eyes as an idea came to her. Instantly, she put on a sorrowful expression, saying, "Oscar, I was doing it for you. Amelia and Carter were having an improper relationship. Otherwise, I would not have been able to take those photographs. I did it because I care about you. Why do you misinterpret my intentions?"

Oscar was playing with his long elegant fingers. Suddenly, he burst out laughing.

Stephanie could not understand why he would laugh. Most men would fume when they see a photo of their wives cheating and their natural reaction would be to slash both adulterer and adulteress to death. Why does he take it so calmly?

Have I underestimated his love for his wife? If he really loved her, during these five years of them being together, why did he not demonstrate his true love for Amelia but rather seemed even distant at times.

Stephanie realized that she really did not know her brother who was like a riddle even though they were siblings.

“Stephanie, you have never loved before. If you loved someone really deeply, you would forgive her even if she had cheated on you. Furthermore, this is totally out of character with Amelia. She would never cheat on me.” Oscar was sure.

“Oscar, are you saying that you love her? Why have you never shown your love once in these five years? If you had shown your concern even a little, I would never have taken out all my frustrations on her and things would not have turned out the way they did now.” Stephanie glared at him angrily, putting all the blame on him.

In her mind, she was convinced that she was the most innocent of all. Despite all the wrongs she had done, she stubbornly insisted that it was for the good of her family, the Clintons.

The truth was that she was selfish and only cared about herself.

The corners of Oscar’s lips curled in a scornful smile.

He went over her words carefully. “In other words, you are putting the blame on me, aren’t you?”

“Yes, I do blame you. When Amelia married into our family, I bullied her. If you and Mom had done anything to stop me, I would not have carried on even though I hated her. My hatred and acts of malice toward her were encouraged every step of the way by you and Mom. Do you dare deny the fact that you are the cause of my action all these years? Why must I shoulder full responsibility for something that is everyone’s fault?” Stephanie retorted self-righteously.

For a while, Oscar was taken aback but then he stood up and approached Stephanie. He pulled her head up by the hair and spoke in an icy tone. “Stephanie Clinton, today I shall make you understand that it is totally wrong to blame others for your own misconduct.”

As Stephanie watched in horror and fear, Oscar held a long fine needle in his hand and pierced it into her finger.

“Ahh...” Stephanie screamed in pain as beads of sweat rolled down from her forehead.

“Cover her mouth for me.”

In the next instant, Stephanie’s heartrending screams were no longer heard but her whole body trembled with pain.

Only after Oscar felt that the punishment was enough did he pull out the needle, stand up, and gaze coldly at this sister whom he had loved with all his heart before. If he could have avoided it, he would not want to see their relationship

torn apart. However, Stephanie had gone too far; so, he had to teach her a lesson. Otherwise, she would never learn.

“Do you understand your wrongdoing?” Oscar asked.

Stephanie curled up in pain but still she twisted her head to look awkwardly at her elder brother and spoke with difficulty. “Oscar, do you not worry about hurting our parents when you treat me like this? I’m your only sister.”

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Chapter 240 A Brutal Lesson

Oscar replied. “When you harmed my wife, did it even cross your mind that I am your brother?”

Stephanie was in so much pain that her whole body was shaking. After a few deep breaths, she spoke. “Oscar, all that I have done was for your own good and for our family. Amelia is not good enough for you. Why can’t you see the truth?”

With a sarcastic laugh, Oscar gave her a tight slap across her face which became swollen immediately.

Blood spurted from Stephanie’s lips and she looked a disgraceful sight.

This time Oscar’s punishment for her was worse than the last time. His punishment was not hitting her face. On the surface, her injuries did not look serious but she was the only one who knew that her whole body was aching. The dense pain was as if tens of thousands of ants had eaten through it.

“She is my woman. Who are you to evaluate her?” Oscar spoke coldly.

“Stephanie, be smart. Go and play the part of an uptown girl. If you know your place, I promise you will lead a good life. If I find you bullying Amelia again, you won’t even have the chance to be a beggar! Oscar glared at her with an icy gaze totally devoid of emotion.

Stephanie shuddered instinctively.

“Guys, brand the word ‘sl*t’ on her body so that she will always remember how annoying her nosy behavior is,” Oscar ordered.

Stephanie’s face turned pale with fear. Branding was such a cruel form of punishment that was used only during medieval times. Never in her worst nightmares would she imagine Oscar using that on her.

Stephanie struggled violently and pleaded desperately. "Oscar, I was wrong! I was really wrong! Please don't do this to me. I promise I won't do this in the future. Please! I am your sister, you can't be so cruel to me."

Oscar squatted down and gripped her chin, saying coldly. "Are you scared now? When you asked someone to hit Amelia with the car and then took a photo of her with some other man, did you even consider that she would feel scared? As her husband, how am I supposed to feel?"

Stephanie managed to free her hands and grabbed him tightly. Crying, she said, "Oscar, I really know how wrong I am. I'll never do it again. I'll stay away from Amelia and never go near her again."

Oscar got up to his feet and ordered. "Brand her!"

Stephanie's face turned a deathly grey.

One of the bodyguards went out and came back carrying something that looked like a stoker which was red hot and smoking.

Stephanie crawled backward in shock, waving both hands and yelling in shock, "Don't come near me! Go away! I don't want it."

One bodyguard stepped forward and held her down despite her struggling. Another bodyguard stepped forward. Then the bodyguard holding Stephanie glanced at Oscar who nodded. The bodyguard understood and immediately ripped Stephanie's blouse.

Before the long iron in the bodyguard's hand had contacted her skin, Stephanie's shrill voice rang, "Don't... Dad, Mom, help, I'm going to die."

Despite Stephanie's screaming, the long branding iron came down ruthlessly on her smooth flawless skin.

"Ahh..." The pain was so great that Stephanie fainted immediately.

The bodyguard dropped his iron and spoke to Oscar. "Boss, Ms. Stephanie has fainted."

Oscar looked at Stephanie who was motionless and said, "Revive her."

"Yes, sir." The bodyguard did as he was told. He slapped her till she opened her eyes.

The moment Stephanie regained consciousness, the pain in her body instantly reached her whole being and her face twisted in agony. Cold sweat drenched her brow.

Oscar came over and looked down on Stephanie who was lying on the floor looking disheveled.

Stephanie moved her fingers, grabbing Oscar's trousers with difficulty and whispered, "Oscar, you are so cruel. I hate you and I hate Amelia, too. Kill me if you dare; otherwise, I will definitely come back with revenge. With the same extent of your cruelty to me, I will be cruel to Amelia in the future."

Oscar's eyes flashed with anger.

He squatted down and brought his eyes to Stephanie's level. "Stephanie, are you threatening me?"

If Stephanie were wise, it was time to acknowledge defeat, and not challenge Oscar, adding fuel to fire and making things worse for herself.

When Stephanie's eyes met Oscar's, she was immediately threatened. So, she curled up and retreated as far as possible.

Oscar pressed forward, grabbed her hair and said in a calm tone, "Stephanie, very few people dare to test my patience. I used to tolerate your arrogance towards Amelia because I hadn't realized how much I love her but she is my woman now; so if you dare to harm her again, I will do worse things than just branding you."

Stephanie could not help but tremble. She felt that she had never understood her brother. He was a demon and his usual indifference was just a façade. The bloodthirsty factor in his bones was really terrifying.

"No! No!" Stephanie flailed both her arms and legs wildly. Her voice became shrill and ear-piercing.

Oscar frowned and shouted, "Quiet!"

Stephanie quietened down instantly and looked at Oscar in fear and terror.

"For the time being, you cannot go home. I shall arrange a place for you to recuperate. The day you learn to comply, you will be allowed to return home. I shall cook up a story to tell Mom and Dad," Oscar said as he stood up.

Stephanie shook her head vigorously and said in fear, "Oscar, I really don't dare to go against you again. I want to go home but I won't say a word to Dad and Mom, I swear. Please let me go back. Mom will be worried and her heart is weak. You don't want her to have a relapse, do you?"

From his upright position, Oscar looked down on her as she lay on the floor, begging for mercy.

Pale-faced, Stephanie struggled and crawled to Oscar's feet. "Oscar, I really won't dare to do it ever again. Please believe me."

Oscar was unmoved.

"Oscar, when I go home, I'll apologize to Amelia. Really, I'll do whatever you want, even kneel down at her feet. Please do not send me away. Mom is ill and you don't want her to have another relapse. For mom's sake, give me a chance."

Oscar pushed her away with his foot and was about to speak when the phone in his trousers pocket rang. Coincidentally, it turned out to be his mother, Olivia.

He collected himself and picked up the phone. "Mom."

On the phone, Olivia said. "Oscar, I heard from the servants that you asked Stephanie to go out at noon. Where is she? Your dad and I got together with friends today, and the eldest son of Mr. Walker's family wishes to know Stephanie better. I think he is also a promising person and a good match for her. If she is with you, please bring her back soon. Mr. Walker's family will come to our house for dinner tonight, I want them to meet."

Oscar glanced at Stephanie and replied. "She is with me. After my meeting with a client is over, I'll see her and I'll bring her home soon."

"That's great. Don't quarrel again each time you meet. She is a spoilt woman but as an elder sibling you must tolerate her." Olivia spoke in a worried tone.

"Alright, Mom."

"That's all, then. I'm going upstairs to see Tony. I miss the child after not seeing him the whole morning." Mrs. Clinton put down the phone after speaking.

Oscar kept his phone and motioned the bodyguard who was covering Stephanie's mouth to leave. Then, he said, "Stephanie, for mom's sake, I'll not send you away this time. However, if you do not change your attitude and behavior, don't expect any mercy from me. Understand?"

Stephanie nodded her head vigorously.

"Later, when you go home, if Mom questions you, do you know what to say?"

Stephanie nodded again.

"I'll do my best to conceal everything from Mom. Later, I'll apply makeup so my swollen face will seem normal. Don't worry, Oscar." Stephanie quickly learned to cooperate and not to antagonize her brother.

Oscar clapped his hands. "That's great, then."

Oscar ordered two bodyguards to hold Stephanie up. "Take her to the restroom. Make sure that her whole body looks normal before you let her out."

"Yes, Boss!"

The two bodyguards dragged Stephanie away without any sympathy and spent nearly half an hour in the bathroom before the three of them came out again. When they came out, Stephanie had on a new skirt. As for her body, it was self-evident how much she was seen by the two bodyguards. Oscar had deliberately allowed her to be humiliated as part of her punishment so he let the two bodyguards look at her.

The two bodyguards were smart enough to know their boundaries and they did not take advantage of her physically lest the siblings' relationship was reconciled and they would pay for their misdeeds.

Oscar examined the all dressed-up Stephanie whose countenance had improved. "Can you walk?"

Stephanie nodded her head rather sadly.

"Buck up and look good. If Mom finds out that you're different, you know my ways of dealing with you."

Stephanie stood up straight but the next instant her body ached so badly that her face was contorted.

Her chest ached especially, being branded at her side. The two bodyguards simply bandaged her up. The wound might get infected if not treated on time.

"Oscar, my chest hurts. Please take me to the hospital to be bandaged properly. Otherwise, Mom might notice something and be saddened. I'm sure you don't want that. I beg you. It's really painful." Stephanie spoke humbly.

Oscar thought over it and said. "You guys take her to the hospital for an examination but remember those branded words must not be removed. Understand?"

"Yes, Boss."

"After it's done, bring her back to the company."

The two bodyguards nodded and said to Stephanie quite politely, "This way, Ms. Stephanie."

Stephanie did not dare to be arrogant anymore but said softly, "Can you both support me? It's painful for me to walk."

The two bodyguards hesitated but did as instructed, each one supporting her on either side, helping her to walk.

Oscar left, too, but in the opposite direction.