

This Time, I Will Get My Divorce, Mr

Chapter 317

She's a pretty quick-witted woman! She appeared flustered just moments ago, yet it only took her a short while to calm down. Furthermore, she managed to find a reason for the missing red mole in less than ten seconds. Her reason makes sense, and it didn't evoke any further questions from Julia's end.

Can Sonia and Zane have full control over a woman as smart as her? If this woman decides to betray them, they might end up in a horrible situation! At that thought, Toby retrieved his phone and dialed Tom's number as he walked toward the elevator.

"President Fuller." Tom's voice came from the other end of the line. Toby pressed his lips together before he spoke in a stern voice. "I want you to get someone to monitor Taylor secretly. I want to be informed whenever she does anything out of the ordinary."

He simply couldn't allow a woman like Taylor to threaten Sonia. If someone like Taylor comes up with a nasty idea, I'll have to destroy her before she tries to do anything. Tom didn't understand Toby's intentions, but he nodded in agreement. "I got it, President Fuller. Do you need anything else?"

"That's all." Toby ended the call.

Meanwhile, Sonia drove over to the court. Carl and Charles were already waiting for her at the entrance, and they walked over together once they saw her getting out of the car. "Sonia," Carl greeted. "Baby!" Charles cried.

"How long have you guys been here?" Sonia asked as she shut her car door.

"We've been here for a while, but we couldn't go in since it isn't time yet. We had no choice but to wait outside." Carl handed her a cup of milk tea that he had bought earlier.

"Thanks, Carl." Sonia took the cup from him.

"You're welcome." Carl gave her a warm smile. Charles pointed toward the crowd opposite them. "Those reporters are staring at you, darling."

Sonia sipped on her milk tea as she glanced in the direction that he was pointing. There were reporters snapping photos of her. If it weren't for the security officers standing outside the court, these reporters would have probably rushed over once I arrived, huh? This trial will determine Tina's sentence, so the reporters are probably curious to hear my thoughts on it.

"Just ignore them, Sonia. You shouldn't let them affect your mood." Carl only took a brief glance in the direction of the reporters.

Sonia nodded. "I'm not going to let them bother me. But aren't you worried that they might recognize you?" Although Carl was wearing a cap and a mask, his height and body shape was distinct enough to attract looks from others. If the reporters stared for a while more, they might even recognize him.

Carl shrugged. "I don't mind if they happen to recognize me."

"It might affect your work," Sonia replied. Carl's gaze darkened a little. "It's fine. I'm not sure if I'm going to continue pursuing a career in this field, anyway."

"What do you mean?" Sonia and Charles exchanged glances before they both looked at him. "You aren't thinking of leaving the industry, are you?" Charles placed an arm around Carl's shoulder. Carl shook Charles' arm off before he gave Sonia a smile. "I do have the thought of leaving the industry, but I'm still in the midst of contemplating my decision."

"This is sudden." Sonia frowned. "Isn't it your dream to become an internationally-known top male model? Did something happen, Carl?" How else could one explain his sudden wish to give up on his dreams? Sonia wondered.

Carl's eyes glistened as he spoke. "It's nothing. I just feel drained, and I just feel like taking a break. That's all."

“Is that so?” Sonia narrowed her eyes. She clearly didn’t believe him.

Carl waved her off with a smile. “Alright, now. Let’s not talk about this. The doors are open so we should go in.” Sonia turned to look at the doors leading into the court and realized that Carl was right. “Okay. Let’s go,” she said with a nod. The three of them, along with some other individuals who got seats in the court, made their way in.

Titus and Julia arrived just a while later. Sonia saw the burning hatred in both their eyes as she looked in their direction. She wasn’t afraid of them at all—she even spread her lips into a smirk. The look on her face only made Titus and Julia more furious than ever.

There was a live stream for the entire trial, so people on the Internet were all able to witness the process. Soon enough, Tina was brought up onto the stand. She had been kept in the detention center for the past few days, and she hadn’t got much food or sleep. On top of that, she was suffocated by the stress she had been facing due to this incident. All of these factors contributed to her significant loss in weight. If it weren’t for Tina’s paler skin tone, Sonia might have thought that the person she was looking at was Taylor. Right now, Tina looks exactly like how Taylor did when she first came out of the village. She looks malnourished and like she would topple if she was struck by the wind.

Upon seeing the drastic change in her daughter’s appearance, Julia held her hand over her mouth and began to sob. Although Titus had felt a huge sense of resentment toward Tina throughout this period of time, he no longer had the energy to hate her then. He merely shook his head helplessly.

Smack! Once the judge pounded the gavel, the trial officially began. The entire trial was rather pointless since everyone had seen proof of Tina attempting to harm Sonia. The trial was, therefore, more of a procedure than anything else. Charles recalled something as he watched Tina arguing with Sonia’s lawyer. “Baby, I have bad news that I think I should tell you,” he turned and whispered to Sonia.

“What is it?” Sonia shifted her gaze toward him. Carl had an idea of what Charles was about to say. “I think he wants to tell you what the lawyer told us before you arrived,” Carl uttered with an icy look in his eyes.

“What did the lawyer say?” Sonia’s expression turned serious when she saw the stern looks on both their faces. Charles pinched the bridge of his nose before he spoke. “Well, before you arrived, I spoke to your lawyer for a while. He told us that Tina’s sentence might be less severe than what we expected—she might not even be sent to jail. The chances are that the court might just give her a probation order.”

“All she might get is a probation order?” Sonia tightened her fists—she was clearly displeased by this news. What Sonia intended was for Tina to be sentenced to jail, not to receive some probation order. Charles understood Sonia’s wishes, which was why he told her that he had bad news.

“That’s right. A probation order. It’s a fact that Tina attempted to harm you, but the lawyer said that you didn’t encounter any actual harm throughout the process. Her crime of intentionally harming someone is therefore turned into a crime of attempted harm, which reduces the severity of her punishment,” Charles explained.

“What nonsense is that?!” Sonia’s face was flushed with rage.

Charles sighed. “I know, right? Furthermore, the lawyer said that the outcome would be the same even if she had tried to frame you. The main reason for this is her health. She would receive a sentence out of prison even if she was sentenced, and this naturally translates into a probation order. That’s why the lawyer said that Tina would end up receiving a probation order.”

Sonia bit her lip without commenting any further. A probation order? This is so ironic! All along, my intentions have been to send Tina to jail. I thought that I finally succeeded this time around, yet they are telling me that all she is probably going to get is a probation order! What could possibly be more disappointing than this? Sonia’s heart felt heavy, and her aura was no longer as strong as before. Carl and Charles both understood the reason for this.

They were both dissatisfied by the outcome, but they knew that it was how their nation functioned. Even if a mother were to kill her

own daughter, she would only be sentenced to jail for up to five years. The outcome of court trials was, oftentimes, less than ideal.

Eventually, the trial came to an end. The result of the trial was as the lawyer had predicted—five years of probation. Within the five years, Tina wasn't allowed to leave Seafield, and she would have to wear fetters that would keep her under police surveillance. If Tina attempted to commit any crime, she would be sent to jail.

However, if Tina played by the rules, she would be safe. She might even get the chance to reduce her sentence if she was a good citizen. In other words, Tina remained free despite being constantly watched by the police. She would go on with her life as usual—she simply wouldn't be able to do anything illegal. Sonia couldn't accept this outcome at all. She wanted to appeal the court's decision, but her lawyer stopped her from doing so.

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The lawyer told Sonia that she could appeal the court's decision, but there would be no point since the judges would still maintain their initial adjudication. "I'm so mad!" Charles slammed his fist against the seat. Carl didn't say much and simply lowered his head as if he was thinking about something.

Sonia watched as Tina was brought out of the courtroom, Titus and Julia following behind her. Titus and Julia seemed to notice Sonia's gaze as they both turned around to flash her looks of victory. Julia, in particular, looked as if she wanted to walk right up to Sonia's face just to laugh at her.

In the past few days, Julia had been running around seeking help since she had assumed that her daughter would have to go to jail. She had suffered countless rejections and eye-rolls. Just an hour ago, Sonia and Toby had looked down upon her as if she were nothing but trash. She was furious whenever she thought about it. However, she felt much better after the court case was over. It was Sonia's turn to get angry then. At that thought, Julia gave

Tina a fond stroke on the head before she let out a hearty laugh while looking in Sonia's direction.

Sonia clenched her fists and gave Julia a cold glare before she shifted her gaze to Tina. Tina's head was hung low, and Sonia couldn't see her expression. However, Sonia guessed that Tina was probably celebrating silently.

After the Gray Family left, Sonia stayed back as she still had to attend William's trial. His charge was more serious than Tina's charge of attempted harm toward Sonia. After all, Sonia never got hurt as a result of Tina's attempts to harm her. William's case was different since he had directly splashed acid on Sonia, and he ended up receiving a three-year sentence. The rest of the netizens who had sent wreaths and knives received their relevant punishments as well—some were arrested while others received milder punishments.

On the other hand, the marketing accounts and media outlets were in greater trouble as they had done more than just to defame Sonia. The outcomes of their cases were still unknown as they had committed other crimes as well. Most of them had to deal with charges that were independent of Sonia's case. Sonia didn't bother much about these people because it was good enough for her to know that they would eventually face the consequences that they deserved.

As she walked out of the court, she raised her head to look at the sky. It was a cloudy day, and it seemed like it was about to rain. Charles looked up as well. "I often hear people saying that the skies look especially clear after they win a court case. We won, yet..." he muttered in a sarcastic tone.

"Are you okay, Sonia?" Carl gazed at Sonia with concern in his eyes. Sonia forced a smile. "I'm fine. The outcome might not have been what I hoped for, but I'm sure Tina won't dare to do anything else for now. At least she'll have to live in the shadows for the upcoming days. I guess the results aren't that bad."

Both Charles and Carl exchanged glances. They could tell that Sonia was forcing herself to feel better, but they didn't expose her act. "Let's forget about the celebration we were supposed to

have tonight,” Charles said after a few seconds of silence. Carl nodded without protesting.

Sonia was about to insist on proceeding with the celebration, but she couldn't seem to utter the words in the end. I thought that I wouldn't be too bothered by the results, but it seems like it has impacted me quite a bit. If I didn't care about the trial's outcome, I would have had the mood to go on with our celebration, right?

Three of them walked to the car park in silence. A group of reporters rushed toward them once they arrived at their car. “Miss Reed, what are your thoughts on the judge's decision for Tina's case?” one asked.

“Yeah, Miss Reed. Let us know if you're satisfied or not!” another asked.

Sonia simply stared at the ground with an icy look on her face and completely ignored the reporters. Carl and Charles were furious, and they shooed the reporters away while shielding Sonia and helping her get in the car. It took them a great deal of effort to finally free themselves from the swarm of reporters. Once they got in the car, they sped out of the area.

On the way back, Charles saw reporters chasing after them in the rearview mirror. He smacked his palm against the steering wheel angrily. “F*ck! These reporters are like pests! They always touch on the most sensitive topics!” he grunted.

“Alright. That's enough,” Carl muttered in a deep voice when he saw the dejected woman sitting with her eyes closed in the back seat. Charles noticed how he might have said the wrong words, and he kept his mouth sealed after stealing a glance at Sonia. The atmosphere in the car seemed especially gloomy after the three of them stopped talking.

Meanwhile, Toby stepped out of the meeting room and sent his collaborating partners off after their meeting at Fuller Group. As Toby strode toward his office, he saw Tom waiting for him outside. Tom wore a rather confused expression on his face as he spoke. “Tina's trial is over, President Fuller.”

“How many years did she get?” Toby’s eyes lit up upon hearing Tom’s words.

“She got a five-year probation.” Tom pushed his glasses up his nose as he spoke in a rather disappointed tone.

Toby was about to let himself into the office, but he spun around immediately after Tom finished speaking. “What did you just say? Five-year probation?!”

“Yes. Tina didn’t cause any direct harm to Miss Reed and her own injuries are rather serious, so the court decided to put her on probation. She also has to pay a sum of one million for destroying Miss Reed’s reputation, and another 5 million for Paradigm Co.’s losses,” Tom replied.

Toby was so furious, all he could do was laugh. “I can’t believe she got off with a five-year probation and 6 million!”

“There’s nothing that can be done—it’s just the way our country works. I contacted our legal department after watching the live stream, and they told me the same thing.” Tom sighed.

Toby pursed his lips. After a while, he narrowed his eyes dangerously. “I want you to watch Tina closely. We can find a chance to set up a trap for Tina.” Since Tina didn’t get prosecuted this time, I’ll find a way to do something that’ll send her to jail.

Tom had been working with Toby for years, and he quickly understood what his boss meant. His glasses glowed as they reflected the light above. “Are you trying to get Tina to do something illegal during her probation period?”

“That’s right.” Toby nodded.

Tom’s eyes lit up. “I got it. I’ll find a chance to lay a trap for her.”

“Okay. You can leave now,” Toby uttered as he gestured for Tom to go. After Tom left, Toby pulled his phone out and dialed Sonia’s number. He knew that Sonia wanted Tina to be sentenced to jail, and he was certain that Sonia would be extremely disappointed with the trial’s outcome.

Sonia picked the call up soon after it began ringing. “Is anything the matter, President Fuller?” Her voice sounded rather weak. She pressed her phone against her shoulder as she jabbed the password for her condominium’s entrance. However, she kept pressing the wrong combination as she wasn’t in the right headspace. She got more frustrated after a few wrong tries.

Toby’s voice softened when he heard her frustration on the other end of the line. “I heard about the court’s decision.”

“Oh. Are you calling to laugh at me?” Sonia bent forward and tried to focus on punching the numbers on the keypad. She finally got it right. Opening the door, she kicked her shoes off without putting on her indoor slippers. She walked barefoot into her living hall, then threw herself onto the couch—she was too tired to do anything else.

On the other end of the call, Toby knitted his eyebrows together after hearing what she said. “What? Why would you think I’m calling to laugh at you?”

“What else could it be? Are you calling to show your concern?” Sonia scoffed.

“Yes. I know you must be in a bad mood now, so—” Toby replied.

“Stop! You can stop now.” Sonia stared at the ceiling listlessly. “I don’t need you to care. I’m way past that now.” In the past, he had never been around when she needed him the most. Even if he was present, he simply pretended not to realize her needs. She no longer needed him at this point. Furthermore, she had tons of people that cared for her then. Does it matter if he cares for me?

Toby felt his chest tightening upon hearing her words. He felt like he was suffocating. His fingers curled around his phone as guilt filled his eyes. “I’m sorry, Sonia. I—”

“You don’t need to be sorry. It’s all over now. Do you need anything else? If that’s all you wanted to say, then I’ll end the call now.” Sonia massaged her temples as her head started to hurt. For some reason, her head felt extremely heavy. She pressed her palm against her forehead, but she didn’t have a fever.