

Unconscious 101

Chapter: 101

Her sudden cheerfulness and optimism didn't fool Theodore at all. He knew that she was only pretending. Although he didn't press on, he made up his mind.

Ariana ate to her satisfaction before going to her room. She took a shower, but she couldn't sleep immediately. She decided to do some carving with clay. The outcome was a palm-sized sculpture of a person.

The more she looked at the sculpture, the more she felt that it looked like someone. She took a pin-sized graver and engraved Theodore's name on its feet.

Suddenly, Ariana burst out laughing. The sculpture looked so amusing. She altered the sculpture's facial expression and made it look like it was crying.

The good laugh lightened up her mood further. After a while, she pulled herself together and began to check her emails.

Sarah was on the right track to getting back her good reputation. She was sought after by many now.

There were numerous invitations for interviews and guest appearances at top shows. But these shows

didn't want any long-term cooperation with Sarah. They just wanted to use her for clout now that she was trending online.

Although it was good for Sarah to be on screen, leveraging on such publicity wouldn't do her career good in the long run. She might fade again soon if care wasn't taken.

If that happened, even the smallest production team wouldn't want to invite her.

It was a tough choice. Ariana wanted the best for Sarah, so she picked out a few relatively better offers and decided to discuss them with Sarah tomorrow.

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The following morning, Ariana was discussing with Sarah when she received a call from Josh.

She was surprised but curious to know why he was calling.

"Good morning, Ariana. Please can I know Sarah's schedule?" Josh uttered in a cautious tone as soon as the line connected.

Before she could say anything, he continued, "I'm sorry about what happened yesterday. It was a terrible mistake on my part.

We can continue the cooperation. Is Sarah still willing to be on the variety show? If she doesn't mind,

we can sign the contract immediately.”

Ariana’s heart fluttered with joy and astonishment. However, something just didn’t add up. She became calm and thought hard about the whole thing. It was what she had wanted, but she didn’t accept it immediately. She just said euphemistically, “I’d have to discuss this with Sarah first. I’ll contact you once we have decided.”

“That works, but how about I bring the contract to you later? We should discuss face to face and iron out whatever problems. As you know, the shooting will start soon. We need to settle all the necessary things as soon as possible.”

It was even more surprising that Josh was in such a hurry to get the contract signed. Wasn’t he the same person who stood them up yesterday? Anyway, Ariana said hesitantly, “Okay, let’s meet up later.”

But Josh arrived at the company in less than ten minutes.

Ariana wondered whether he teleported or was already waiting outside while they spoke on the phone.

Josh seemed like a completely different person. Unlike yesterday, he smiled at them brightly and praised Sarah to no end. “Sarah, you are the most talented singer of this generation. None of the other

singers come close to you. This show will be a stepping stone for you. You will take the world by storm, trust me!”

Ariana and Sarah couldn’t help but exchange confused looks.

“Please go through the contract. If you aren’t satisfied with any of the clauses, just point them out. I will get them adjusted immediately. If everything sits right with you, please append your signature to it. I’d be glad if you can give us another chance, Ms. Flynn,” Josh added sincerely.

Ariana had been silent for a long time. After looking through the contract, she asked, “Don’t you need to tell Mr. Jasper Anderson about this?”

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“No. There’s no need for that. Don’t worry about him. He doesn’t have a say in this matter,” Josh laughed and said disapprovingly as if he didn’t give a damn about Jasper.

Ariana looked through the contract again and again. Everything was just right. Even the signing fee was far beyond Sarah’s current status.

There was no denying that it was a juicy offer. Ariana didn’t want Sarah to miss out on this opportunity despite the circumstances.

As soon as Sarah appended her signature on the contract, Jasper rushed in like an angry bull.

“Josh, how dare you go against my will? You are playing with fire! Do you want me to withdraw the investment and terminate the contract Elva signed with you?”

Josh didn’t even flinch in the face of this confrontation. He sat there with his legs crossed. Looking at Jasper, he said, “You can withdraw the investment as you please. However, I have to remind you that if you want to terminate Elva’s contract, you have to pay for liquidated damages.”

“What?!” Jasper laughed evilly. He pulled the empty chair opposite Josh and sat down. “Do you want to become an enemy of SJ Entertainment?”

This was a weighty threat, so Josh sat up straight and spoke in a much calmer tone.

“Mr. Anderson, I’m not doing this just because I want to go against you or SJ Entertainment. You know, BRD Group is the biggest sponsor of our broadcasting station. It’s also the main sponsor for several shows. The order to get Sarah on board for the new show came from the higher-ups. How can I go against them? As much as I hate to say this, I’d rather offend SJ Entertainment than be in the bad books of BRD Group. No hard feelings...”

Looking at Jasper with a complicated expression, Josh added, “Friendly advice, be very careful from

now on.”

Jasper’s face darkened.

Josh took his copy of the signed contract and left without sparing the troublemaker a backward glance.

Jasper was so furious that he kicked over a row of chairs.

He sneered at Ariana viciously. “You are really something, Ariana. You accused me of stooping so low

and not playing fair yesterday. But what did you do afterward? You hooked up with someone in BRD

Group. I shouldn’t have underestimated you.”

Ariana was angry. It cost her great restraint not to fire back at him. She just eyed him and looked away.

“You haven’t heard the last of me. I won’t let this slide. Just wait and see

* Jasper threatened and then left angrily.

The door of the meeting room was banged shut again. Sarah, who was sitting next to Ariana, leaned in

and asked with her eyes beaming with admiration, “So, you really have a backer? I thought you were

just bragging to deceive me. Well, thank him for me, okay?”

Ariana rubbed her head, feeling more confused. “Honestly, I have no idea what’s going on. I was so

surprised after Josh contacted me again. I don't know why he changed his mind. Believe me, I didn't hook up with anyone from BRD Group or any other company at all."

Sarah hesitated for a moment. She recalled that Ariana was just as confused and surprised as her a while back. If this wasn't her agent's doing, whose was it? Could it be that she just found favor with BRD Group?

Ariana was pondering hard when she suddenly felt a sharp pain in her Lower abdomen. She held her belly and groaned softly.

She leaned back on the chair and stared at the clock on the wall. Her heart skipped a beat. She sprang to her feet and exclaimed, "Oh my God! You have an appointment at the recording studio at three. It skipped my mind.

In panic mode, she rushed to the recording studio with Sarah despite her stomachache.

Once Ariana was done with work, she went back home. She met Theodore doing some gardening outside.

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Since he had been concerned about her yesterday, she told him that Josh changed his mind and Sarah

signed a contract for the show this afternoon.

“You don’t have to worry anymore. Josh said that the management of BRD Group specifically asked that Sarah be part of the show.

It’s strange because they have never been in contact with her or SJ Entertainment before. I wonder why they suddenly got involved.” Ariana still hadn’t figured it out. She picked up a watering can and watered the flowers while chatting with Theodore.

With a faint smile, Theodore fixed the flowerpot in front of him and said in a low voice, “It’s simple.

Sarah is currently the wave of the moment for a good reason. It is only normal that people want to use her to market their shows and whatnot. BRD Group is not any different. Don’t think too much.”

Ariana thought for a while and couldn’t help but agree that he had a point.

As the biggest sponsor of Guava Broadcasting Station, it’s expected that BRD Group wanted the new variety show to be successful. Its success would bring in more profit for them.

They did it for their own interest.

“I think we are done here. Let’s go in to have dinner.” Seeing that Ariana bought his explanation,

Theodore beckoned on her as he wheeled himself into the villa.

Judy came out of the kitchen with a tray of hot dishes and greeted Ariana with a smile.

Ariana went forward to help set the table. While she was at it, Judy screamed, “Ma’am, there is blood all over your pants!”

Ariana looked down at her white pants immediately. It was indeed stained with blood.

It was at this moment she understood why she had been feeling a sharp pain in her lower abdomen since the afternoon. She just got her period.

With her cheeks aflame, she rushed to her room to clean up. Her underwear was stained with blood.

It seemed that the artificial insemination failed.

Mixed feelings surged in Ariana’s heart as she sat on the toilet. She was both glad and disappointed.

It appeared that she hadn’t conceived because the child already knew that his father didn’t want him.

Perhaps that was the best for everyone.

However, Ariana’s heart still ached. Before her eyes became misty, she talked herself out of it.

“Get a grip, Ariana. It’s for the best. Theodore would have hated you more if you had gotten pregnant,” she murmured to herself.

After washing up and putting on fresh clothes, she went downstairs and sat at the table. She

whispered, "I just got my period, so I'm not pregnant." ©

The entire dining room became silent as soon as she finished speaking. Only the clinking of cutlery could be heard.

Ariana lowered her head, not wanting to see how Theodore's expression would change. Despite the pep talk she gave herself in the bathroom, she still had inexplicable mixed feelings.

Deep down, she had looked forward to conceiving a child, but the harsh reality told her that it was for the best that the insemination failed.

Many seconds passed before Theodore piped up, "Well, it saves us the trouble."

A lump went up Ariana's throat as soon as she heard those words.

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Her eyes felt itchy all of a sudden. She wanted to burst into tears. It was no news that Theodore didn't want to have this baby. After all, he had threatened to force her to have an abortion if she fell pregnant.

Nonetheless, it still hurt now that he expressed pleasure concerning the news.

His recent caring attitude had blinded her for a moment. It turned out that he was still the cold man he

was when they first met.

A leopard never changes its spots. Ariana felt that it was stupid of her to have forgotten who he was.

She should have been mentally prepared for such a thing to happen.

She lowered her head and blinked several times to fight back the tears that were threatening to fall.

When she did that successfully, she looked up at Theodore and asked, "When will you file for divorce?"

Theodore's right hand which was holding a fork paused midway to his mouth. He set down the fork and

asked with a frown, "What do you mean?"

"Didn't you say you wanted a divorce the first day we met? It was delayed because of the possibility of

having a baby. Now that we are sure the insemination failed, you don't have to continue living with me.

We should divorce now, shouldn't we?"

It was crystal clear that Ariana was upset. The tone of her voice gave her away, but she didn't care.

She just wanted to be away from this man—out of sight, out of mind!

Theodore took a sip of water and wiped his mouth before saying, "Need I remind you that we made a

bet? Your mother's belongings are still in my possession. Until the game comes to an end in three

months, you can't walk away from this marriage. So, chill and get your head in the game."

"I was just..." Ariana's words trailed off as Theodore wheeled himself away from the dining room.

She could only stare at his back with her eyes darkening. The atmosphere in the room was warm, but

her heart was as cold as ice.

For the umpteenth time in their short marriage, she realized that she was just a tool for Theodore

because he wanted to get back at his half-brother.

Throughout the night, Ariana couldn't sleep a wink. She got up at the crack of dawn and left for work so

she wouldn't see Theodore that morning.

Just to stay awake, she drank several cups of coffee. It affected her appetite.

Sarah didn't come to the company today, so Ariana had no one to talk to. She had done all her tasks

for today. The day was becoming more and more boring.

She would only have a lot of work to do by next month when Sarah would fly to Ivebridge for the variety

show.

During lunch break, Ariana went out to buy another cup of coffee. When she came back, she saw

Donna waiting at the door of her office.

“Where the hell have you been, Ariana? I looked everywhere for you! An important activity is currently going on. They are understaffed. Go there to help right now!” Donna yelled, frowning at her.

Donna was not talking nicely to Ariana. Obviously, she was here to stir up trouble.

Ariana knew that Donna was on Jasper’s side, so Ariana wouldn’t agree to do anything she knew she shouldn’t.

“That’s not my problem. You should take it up with the foreign aid department,” Ariana declined coldly, keeping her expression passive.

Donna folded her arms and cast Ariana a look of disdain. “Do you think you can just do whatever you want because Mr. Silence helped you last time? If so, you’re delusional. There’s no way that will happen. You’re the most leisurely person at the company now. You should go there.”

After saying that, Donna left abruptly, giving Ariana no chance to refute her words.

Ariana felt anger burning inside her chest. She gripped her cup of coffee and gulped it down. The bitterness of it made her shudder, but it seemed to calm her nerves.

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After stalling for a while, Ariana finally went downstairs and hailed a taxi. She had no choice but to go to the activity site Donna mentioned.

It was not until Ariana arrived at the scene that she realized it was a new product launch for a fashion brand.

The place was swarmed with fans crowding the door in the wind and snow, and Ariana could see why; the spot was littered with various celebrities.

Ariana patted the snow off of her shoulders and gazed at the building. As soon as she squeezed past the fans and entered the hall, she was met by a large personal photo of Brielle in the corner.

Judging from the photo, it seemed she was invited to be an image ambassador for the brand.

Although being an ambassador was not as significant as being a spokesperson, it was still a rare opportunity for Brielle, who had only just started her career in the entertainment industry.

After all, the other eight ambassadors for the brand were popular stars.

Ariana was about to mull over this more, but one of Brielle's subordinates interrupted her thoughts by calling her into the waiting area.

Ariana bit her lip. She was reluctant, but she knew she couldn't just leave now. She guessed it must

have been Brielle who asked Donna to arrange this.

There were already many celebrities in the waiting area. Brielle monopolized a large area alone, and there was also a special place for her things.

Some stars shared the same place, but all of them looked unsurprised to Brielle occupying a larger area of her own. After all, Brielle had a strong background to support her and was a rising new star. It was natural for a sponsor to treat someone like her better.

As soon as Brielle laid her eyes on Ariana, an onslaught of orders left her mouth. She ordered Ariana to do various chores and even tossed her coat at her for her to carry.

Brielle had a few other assistants that could have helped out, but she didn't ask any of them to do it.

Ariana didn't want to quarrel with Brielle in public, so she obeyed Brielle's ruthlessness and endured it for the time being.

"This water is cold. Go get me another one."

Brielle was slumped leisurely in a chair, dressed in a gorgeous dress and styled hair. She scrolled through her phone with a bored expression, not even bothering to look up at Ariana, and continuously

bossed her around arrogantly.

Ariana had just poured her the glass of water three minutes ago.

But Brielle was insisting it was cold without even touching the glass, let alone taking a sip. Ariana

glared at her. Brielle was deliberately causing trouble.

Ariana took a deep breath, resisting the urge to grab the glass and dump the water on Brielle's face.

She quietly turned and changed the water for Brielle.

At this moment, a noise sounded from the door.

It was Bowman. He entered confidently. As the spokesperson for the region, he had a higher profile

than anyone else at present.

Brielle immediately stood up when she saw him and approached him with a gracious smile on her

pretty face.

When she saw this, Ariana suddenly understood that it must have been Bownan who helped Brielle get

the position of brand ambassador .

Soon the press conference began, and the crowd outside began bustling. The stars that were milling

around in the waiting room began preparing themselves and took off their heavy winter coats, revealing

their exquisite attire inside. They were all ready for the catwalk.

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After the catwalk, they were each scheduled to have an interview for around three minutes.

Brielle showed up fashionably late at the near end of the show.

She wore a lovely white dress with a slit in the leg, tight around the waist, which made her look curvaceous yet charming and pure.

Brielle had always been confident about her appearance and knew how to flaunt herself. She posed at the right angles when pictures were being taken of her.

She smiled at the cameras and kept her mind on posing, so she didn't notice the reporters suddenly shifting and looking at their phones, whispering at each other.

What on earth were they looking at?

Ariana frowned when she noticed the ruckus. Something was wrong.

She pulled out her own phone and checked the news. When she reached the trending news, she gasped in shock.

The woman in these photos and videos was... Brielle?

Indecent photos and videos taken of Brielle at a nightclub before she debuted had been leaked online and exposed to the public. It was now a top search online and a hot topic.

The photos depicted Brielle scantily dressed, drinking, and dancing wildly whilst being surrounded by a group of cheering men.

The video was even more indecent. The camera was focused on Brielle, tongue-kissing a man with tattoos on his arms. The video was short, only ten seconds, but it was enough to expose Brielle as not being as pure as she made herself out to be. ©

After getting this new scoop, a reporter raised his hand and asked Brielle loudly, “Miss Edwards, have you been through a frivolous phase and acted rebelliously, such as at a nightclub?”

Brielle was taken aback. She wasn’t sure why the reporter was suddenly asking this question. She pretended to rack her brain innocently and eventually smiled at the reporter in a friendly manner. “No, not that I remember. I’ve never been to that kind of place. I’ve spent far too much time studying anyway, and going training courses for things such as piano and ballet lessons.” ©

She had barely finished speaking when the reporters off the stage burst into laughter. Ariana couldn’t

help but giggle, too.

Ballet and piano lessons? Her? Brielle was good at making things up and lying through her teeth. In

reality, this woman lived recklessly since childhood, often skipping classes at school and training

lessons. How dare she have the nerve to talk about working hard at piano lessons?

Ariana snapped out of her reminiscing and quickly pulled out her phone to hit the record button. She

wanted to document Brielle's humiliation today and replay it again at home for her own enjoyment.

Brielle froze on stage. She gazed at the crowd in confusion and asked, "What's so funny? Why are you

all laughing?"

A female reporter cast her sharp gaze at Brielle and called, "Miss Edwards, can you explain the video

and photos of you online?"

Brielle was even more confused now. She nervously glanced at the reporters' accusatory expressions

and a couple of them glancing at their phones and snickering. She had a bad feeling. She then glanced

at the staff and their expressions looked grim.

Soon, one of her assistants rushed onto the stage and hastily showed Brielle the news on her phone.

Once Brielle saw it, her face changed dramatically. She was so shocked that she staggered and almost

fainted.

She couldn't believe that these photos and the video had resurfaced from so many years ago!

It was the first time the host had seen such a scene. He hurried out to deal with it, desperately trying to

mediate the situation and lead the focus to the next female star.

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But it didn't work. The reporters kept asking about Brielle.

"You're the woman in these online photos, aren't you? Please give us a statement, Miss Edwards."

"You have debuted as the purest actress, yet you have such a debauched private life that it completely

contradicts your image. How will you explain this to the public?"

"Miss Edwards, it seems you have a rather promiscuous life. Will we be seeing you at a particular

nightclub again?"

"You seem to be very active with others, and quite dauntless. Is this the secret behind all of the

resources supporting you and kick-starting your career?"

The reporters' questions were persistent and ruthless. Brielle's mind went blank. So many questions

were being yelled at her and cameras were flashing so much that she could barely open her eyes to

look at them.

She had never been so humiliated. She gulped and tried her best not to cry.

Ariana looked around at the backstage staff. None of them were swooping in to rescue Brielle. She

sighed inwardly and turned to leave. But just as she was about to, she noticed a man wearing a mask

and sunglasses sneaking around in the crowd.

She paused and observed him for a few seconds. She realized he was holding a bottle in his hand. But

the liquid in the bottle didn't look like water. It looked more like.

Before she could comprehend what was happening, the man suddenly rushed through the crowd and

toward the stage.

Ariana's heart skipped a beat. She stepped forward quickly and shouted, "Everyone, spread out! Watch

out for that ma

Before anyone could react, the man had already jumped onto the stage with the bottle. He screamed at

Brielle in fury, "Go to hell, bite!

Without any hesitation, the man turned the bottle over and dumped its contents all over Brielle.

“ARI”

A shrill scream rang out from the stage, but it didn’t come from Brielle.

It came from her assistant.

At the critical moment, when the bottle was launched at her, Brielle yanked her assistant in front of her and used her as a shield. ©

The air was suddenly filled with a harsh chemical smell. The assistant was screaming horribly in pain.

She collapsed to the floor, clutching her face, blood trickling through her fingers.

The man had tried to pour sulfuric acid on Brielle.

Brielle cowered behind her assistant, trembling in fear. She stared at the screaming woman in horror, imagining what would have happened if the acid had been splashed on her face instead.

When the man realized Brielle had managed to dodge his attack, he became furious. He ran at Brielle with his fist raised, intending to pounce on her.

Brielle froze in terror like a deer caught in headlights.

Fortunately, the security guards ran up to the stage in time and managed to stop and apprehend him in time.

But the man didn't want to give up. He struggled furiously against the guards and cursed at Brielle,

"You're the one who ruined my life! You bitch, you'll die with me today!"

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Brielle screamed in panic, quickly distancing herself away from him. "You're crazy! I don't even know who you are! Guards! Guards, take this psycho away!"

The guards grabbed onto the man and restrained him. As the man struggled, his mask loosened from his face.

Although only half of his face was exposed, Ariana managed to recognize who he was. It was Lynch.

The reporters seemed to realize this, too, and began to fervently snap pictures of him. The noise echoed through the hall and there were so many flashing lights that it became difficult to see.

The whole hall was plunged into chaos.

People heard the commotion and began storming in to see what was happening, and Ariana was being pushed and shoved by the crowd.

The person in front of her was almost knocked over. Ariana quickly caught her and held her up, warning, "Be careful. Don't fall."

Unexpectedly, Lynch, who was being forced from the stage by the security guards, heard Ariana's voice and stiffened.

Suddenly, Lynch's head snapped in her direction. He instantly recognized her face, and his eyes widened. He became ferocious and screamed at her, "It was you! You're the woman from that night!"

Ariana was shocked for a moment. Then she quickly lowered her head and avoided his gaze. She turned around hastily and tried to hide amongst the crowd.

"Damn it! You bitch! How dare you lie to me! I'll make you pay! I'll kill you!" Despite his cruises, Lynch's roar was filled with anguish and desperation.

Ariana's breath hitched in her throat. His shouts frightened her. Fortunately, the guards forced him away and pulled him out of the hall. His roars soon faded, and the noises of the crowd took over.

Everyone went on and assumed Lynch was out of his mind.

Soon, sirens sounded outside, and the ambulance arrived. The injured assistant was carried away on a stretcher, and the reporters and stars gradually left.

The press conference ended in haste.

As the crowd dwindled, Ariana made her way backstage and witnessed the mess that was in the aftermath.

Brielle had already run in there, avoiding the cameras. She was still in shock. The sulfuric acid had splashed on the back of her hand and burnt a bit of her skin. She was crying and cursing about what had happened but made no mention of the fact that she pulled her assistant in harm's way to protect herself from the acid.

When she saw Ariana enter, Brielle's sobs subsided for a moment as she glared daggers at Ariana.

She snapped, "What are you looking at? Are you happy to see me in trouble? Are you satisfied?"

Ariana was careful not to say anything in reply or show any emotion, But this only seemed to anger

Brielle even more. She was paranoid that Ariana was gloating at her misfortune, laughing at her.

Brielle was full of loathing. She was supposed to be celebrated and praised today. She couldn't understand why things turned out like this.

Ariana quietly listened to Brielle's baseless scolding, but she sneered in her heart. Without saying a word, Ariana calmly took her bag and left.

When she went out, she bumped into Jasper, who seemed to be rushing over, But Ariana didn't even

raise her head, as if she didn't see him at all. She passed by him silently and exited the building.

Jasper was furious, so he wasn't in the mood to stop Ariana. He burst into the backstage area and stomped over to Brielle.

When Brielle saw Jasper, she felt even more aggrieved and complained, "Jasper, you're finally here!

You have no idea how scared I was! Someone tried to pour sulfuric acid on my face!"

Tears fell from Brielle's eyes as she wailed. Her crying face was somewhat pitiful. Any man's heart would soften if they saw it.

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Brielle stood and took Jasper's hand tenderly. She was about to act cute and complain to him again when he suddenly shook off her hand and slapped her straight across the face.

Brielle froze, dumbfounded by the slap.

Brielle held her slapped cheek and looked at Jasper with tears in her eyes.

"You slapped me?"

She completely lost it the next second. She pounced on him and rained down slaps on him like crazy.

"I'm going to kill you today. How dare you slap me? Have you lost your mind?"

“That’s enough! You know what you did.” Jasper grabbed her wrists, glaring at her. His previously

swollen eyes were almost healed, except for the slight bloody bruises around them.

For this reason, he looked like the devil himself when he stared at anyone in the past few days.

Even Brielle—a stubborn and careless woman, couldn’t help but shiver at the sight of his fierce look.

She swallowed hard and feigned obliviousness. “I don’t know what you are talking about. What did I do?”

Jasper gritted his teeth and blurted out, “What the hell were those photos online? You always acted like a naive and pure girl in front of me, but you are actually so loose like a bitch! You know what I hate the most, Brielle? It’s being cheated by someone I trust! You disgust me!”

Guilt broke every guard of pretense Brielle put up. She stepped back a little and said, “What has the past got to do with anything? My past doesn’t define who I am. It’s true that I used to be wayward, but

I’m no longer that girl. You are the only one I love now, Jasper.”

Jasper raked his hair with his fingers. He closed his eyes and took several deep breaths, trying to suppress the grenade of fury that was threatening to explode inside of him.

“Please calm down, my love. Now is not the time for us to fight over something like that. We need to join forces and find out who is behind this. Jasper, you are scaring me. I...” Brielle stammered. She feared that Jasper would hit her any moment from now.

Jasper stared daggers at her without saying a word for a long time. Brielle was beginning to think she was doomed when he finally said, “Before I came here, I found out who did this. It was Lynch! Since he was once an A-list actor in the entertainment industry, it was pretty easy for him to dig up your dirty past. He’s also the one who tried to bathe you with acid just now.”

“What? Lynch is behind it? How can that be? I don’t know him, neither have I had any encounter with him before!” Brielle was shocked and scared. She knew Lynch was a horrible man based on all that was published in the media about him. As a result, she would never dare to step on his toes.

“What do you mean by that? Why would Lynch try to pour acid on you and also go as far as denting your image if you don’t know him? It’s clear that he holds a grudge against you. Enmity is very common in the entertainment circle. But why would Lynch single you out and attack when you just debuted recently? You must have done something to hit Jasper felt that Brielle was telling lies. After all, she had lied to him all this while.

Brielle burst into tears again. Holding her face, she said, "How would I know? I swear, I don't know that man. We have never met before. You have to believe me. I'm telling the truth."

"You'd better be!" Jasper snorted.

Brielle held her chest, choking with fear. "Thank goodness that madman was caught in time. I could have died."

Jasper sneered, "Don't get too relaxed yet. I got the news that Lynch managed to trick the security guards and escaped before the cops came, He's still out there, so that means you are far from being safe."

Meanwhile, Ariana was restless for the whole afternoon after she got back to work and Sonia informed her that Lynch evaded arrest.

It was finally closing hour. She was clearing her desk when Donna suddenly barged into her office and assigned her more tasks.

Although Ariana knew that Donna was picking on her, she couldn't refuse. She stayed back and worked until it was about eleven o'clock.

She took a look at her phone. There was no text or call from anyone. Her heart sank a little. Her so-called husband didn't even contact her.

Just as Ariana was about to be sad again, she called herself to order, They were just a nominal couple.

Theodore had no obligation to care that she was staying out late.

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Ariana put on her coat and wrapped a thick scarf around her neck before walking out of the office.

Every worker had gone home by this time, so the sound of her heels hitting the tiled floor echoed.

The main entrance must have been locked by now. She decided to go down to the underground floor, pass through the underground parking lot, and leave from the other exit.

The corridor leading to the elevator was dimly lit. One of the lights kept flickering. Ariana felt the temperature become colder than normal. The hairs on her body stood up. It was as if someone was following her.

Ariana thought of Lynch. Her heart began to pound.

She trotted into the elevator and held her breath until she arrived at the parking lot.

A few cars were still parked here, so Ariana relaxed a bit. She was walking in the middle when the

revving sound of an engine pierced the quiet atmosphere.

Ariana's heart skipped a beat. She froze for some seconds. When the sound grew louder, she turned around and saw a black car speeding toward her.

Ariana took to her heels. She made a sharp turn to a corner, but the car continued to follow her. Fear burned a red rash on her cheeks. She was so scared that she screamed out loud with her eyes shut.

The next second, she heard the screeching sound of tires.

The blow she expected to receive didn't come. She also didn't feel any pain. Her heart was pounding so hard that she thought it would burst her chest open.

She was panting heavily. After summoning up the courage, she peeled open one of her eyes, only to find that the car had halted right in front of her.

Suddenly, the window of the back seat was wound down. A familiar side profile was revealed immediately.

"Hey, it's you! Why did... Why..." Ariana's voice quaked as she continued to pant.

Theodore frowned and looked at her as if she was an idiot. "What are you screaming for? Get in."

Ariana held her chest and heaved a sigh of relief. She had thought she was going to be crushed to

death. Despite her relief, she still felt embarrassed because of how she screamed like a sheep in the slaughterhouse. She didn't dare to look Theodore in the eye.

She was still shaken up and afraid of what might happen out there, so she had no choice but to get in the car obediently.

Ariana turned around and tried opening the door of the front Passenger seat.

The two men inside the car watched her without uttering a word.

After a few futile attempts, Ariana had to open the back seat door and get seated beside Theodore.

The heater in the car was on, so she soon felt warm.

Still feeling embarrassed, Ariana pressed her head against the window and watched the empty road.

She prayed that Theodore wouldn't strike up a conversation.

The air in the car was awkward. It was as if the two of them were two worlds apart.

The silence was killing Theodore. He pinched the space between his eyebrows as his patience ran out.

He cleared his throat and asked, "Are you avoiding me?"

Ariana's heart did a flip. She slowly turned to look at him. She shrank back to the door and replied, "No.

Why would you think that? I have a lot on my plate. That's why I now leave for work early and get off

work late. It has nothing to do with you."