### Warning 261

## Chapter 261 Who Was Behind All This

Rita's POV:

The Lively Group had gone bankrupt at my very hands. Defeated and regretful, I drove away from the company, wandering aimlessly for a long time before going home.

But, when my car arrived at the gate, it didn't open.

Frowning, I got off the car. As soon as I approached the iron gate, I saw two black figures rushing towards me, followed by the sound of fierce barking of dogs.

"Ah!" I was so startled that I staggered back and fell awkwardly to the ground, causing me to accidentally graze my palm. The pain from the minor wound felt like it was burning me. "Damn it! Why are there dogs in my house?"

I hobbled to my feet.

The two German Shepherds were still barking at me as I looked across the iron gate, scanning the courtyard.

On the lawn, Lily was bent over, catching her breath as she threw a tennis racket onto the ground. At this time, Kevin ran to her side, wiping the beads of sweat on her forehead.

'What's Kevin doing with Lily?

Have they known each other for a long time?'

Only then did I realize that Kevin was the one who drove the Lively Group to its destruction overnight. It turned out that he and Lily were colluding!

"Fuck! That evil bitch!" I was so furious that I clasped the iron gate with both hands.

Finally, they noticed my presence.

Lily held onto Kevin's arm, leaning against him intimately. There was a bright smile on her face while she was waving at me.

At this point, I was hopping mad. "You bitch! This was all your doing! You ruined my company!"

Lily whispered something to Kevin with a smile on her face. Then, she approached me on her own. Soon, she stopped in front of the gate and the dogs displayed affection towards her when they saw her. They were nuzzling their heads against her thighs.

With arrogance, Lily looked into my eyes. "You are the dumbest piece of shit I've ever met, Rita. Do you really not know who's behind that whole charade?" she asked.

"Of course, I do. It's you! You're the one who did it behind my back!"

"Me? No, no, no. I'd love nothing more than to see your poor face be humiliated, but I'm not that capable, boo."

It was then that a particular person flashed through my mind as I looked at Lily in disbelief. "Are you saying that..."

"Nope. I'm not saying anything," said Lily. She then pet the dogs, turned around, and left.

Scarlett's face kept flashing through my mind. The image was so vivid in my head and I hated it down to my bone!

Out of everyone else in this world, Scarlett hated me the most and she had the most reason to not want me to have a good life.

"Scarlett, you're the only one who'd do this to me. You've already ruined my happiness and my family, and now you've destroyed my career! I am going to make sure you die a miserable death!" Gritting my teeth, I opened the car door and drove away at full speed.

Rita's POV:

Tha Livaly Group had gona bankrupt at my vary hands. Dafaatad and ragratful, I drova away from tha company, wandaring aimlassly for a long tima bafora going homa.

But, whan my car arrivad at tha gata, it didn't opan.

Frowning, I got off tha car. As soon as I approached the iron gata, I saw two black figures rushing towards ma, followed by the sound of fierca barking of dogs.

"Ah!" I was so startlad that I staggarad back and fall awkwardly to the ground, causing ma to accidentally graze my palm. The pain from the minor wound falt like it was burning me. "Demn it! Why are there dogs in my house?"

I hobblad to my faat.

Tha two Garman Shaphards wara still barking at ma as I lookad across tha iron gata, scanning tha courtyard.

On the lawn, Lily was bant ovar, catching har breath as she thraw a tannis racket onto the ground. At this time, Kavin ran to her side, wiping the beads of sweet on her forehead.

'What's Kavin doing with Lily?

Hava thay known aach othar for a long tima?'

Only than did I raaliza that Kavin was the one who drove the Lively Group to its destruction overnight. It turned out that he and Lily were colluding!

"Fuck! That avil bitch!" I was so furious that I claspad tha iron gata with both hands.

Finally, thay noticad my prasanca.

Lily hald onto Kavin's arm, laaning against him intimataly. Thara was a bright smila on har faca whila sha was waving at ma.

At this point, I was hopping mad. "You bitch! This was all your doing! You ruinad my company!"

Lily whisparad somathing to Kavin with a smila on har faca. Than, sha approachad ma on har own. Soon, sha stoppad in front of tha gata and tha dogs displayed affection towards har whan they saw har. They ware nuzzling thair heads against har thighs.

With arroganca, Lily lookad into my ayas. "You ara tha dumbast piaca of shit I'va avar mat, Rita. Do you raally not know who's bahind that whola charada?" sha askad.

"Of coursa, I do. It's you! You'ra tha ona who did it bahind my back!"

"Ma? No, no, no. I'd lova nothing mora than to saa your poor faca ba humiliatad, but I'm not that capabla, boo."

It was than that a particular parson flashad through my mind as I lookad at Lily in disbaliaf. "Ara you saying that..."

"Nopa. I'm not saying anything," said Lily. Sha than pat tha dogs, turnad around, and laft.

Scarlatt's faca kapt flashing through my mind. Tha imaga was so vivid in my haad and I hatad it down to my bona!

Out of avaryona alsa in this world, Scarlatt hatad ma tha most and sha had tha most raason to not want ma to hava a good lifa.

"Scarlatt, you'ra tha only ona who'd do this to ma. You'va alraady ruinad my happinass and my family, and now you'va dastroyad my caraar! I am going to maka sura you dia a misarabla daath!" Gritting my taath, I opanad tha car door and drova away at full spaad.

#### Scarlett's POV:

Today, I was supposed to have a drink with Vivian alone, but Charles insisted on coming with me. He told me that he'd follow me wherever I went to, because I was his wife.

By nine in the evening, we arrived at Mint Bar. When we entered the private room, we saw Spencer, David and his fiancee, Icey.

Upon taking my seat, Charles insisted on sitting next to me. "I want to speak with my friend in private. Can't you just go with your friends to another room?" I protested.

"No," Charles refuted.

Discomfited by his intense, I turned my face away and decided to ignore him. However, Charles grabbed my hand and interlocked his fingers with mine.

Someone in the room noticed what he did.

"That's enough, you two! Stop showing off your love in front of us!" As Vivian sat across me, she shook her head, and took out a pack of cards. "Let's just play cards, guys!"

"Hold on. What does the winner get?" My hand was starting to feel ticklish. I pulled it out from Charles' hand and shot him a sidelong glance.

This time, he held my waist.

Helplessly, I raised my head and happened to meet Vivian's taunting gaze.

"The winner can ask the loser a question, and the loser must answer no matter what," said Vivian.

Icey chuckled at that. "Sounds interesting."

Since nobody objected to the premise of the game, it began right away.

Though we were just playing cards, it still tired me out after playing for an hour. I leaned back in Charles' arms, but I still couldn't find a comfortable position. Thus, I tried to adjust my posture.

A moment later, he picked me up and placed me on his lap.

He was hugging me lazily, resting his head on my shoulder. The warmth of his breath sprayed onto my earlobes, causing my ears to feel hot.

All of a sudden, he grabbed my ass.

With a wide-eyed gaze, I glared at this shameless man.

Even so, Charles just smiled at me as he looked into my eyes. It was then that he raised his chin and planted a kiss on my lips.

Upon seeing what he did, everyone else in the room booed and hissed at him. I, on the other hand, was blushing from embarrassment.

"Oh, my God! How could you two be so brazen?" Spencer groaned, sounding annoyed.

David added, "Spencer, go ahead and find another room for these two. I don't wanna look at them anymore."

To warn Charles, I pinched his cheeks.

Seconds later, the game continued. And to my surprise, I won five times in a row!

"You're awesome today, Scarlett! Is it because your husband is by your side?" Vivian shook her head and let out a sigh. "Scarlett, this time, you have to ask Spencer a question," she continued.

Upon hearing that, Spencer appeared to be nervous. "Pick a question carefully. Don't try to pull any tricks on me."

"Oh, don't worry, Spencer. I'm a kindhearted woman. I'm not gonna do that." I smirked at him. Seeing that Spencer was relieved, I asked him, "Spencer, if Vivian marries another man now, what will you do?"

He was stunned by the question. Then, he glanced at Vivian and asked, "Are you planning to marry someone else?"

Vivian looked down and continued staring at her cards without responding.

"Vivian, I'm going to take responsibility for you!" Spencer proposed. He appeared to be serious.

Raising my eyebrows, I leaned close to Charles and whispered, "What happened between them?"

"Things that should have happen a long time before," he replied.

Before I could figure out what Charles meant, I heard Vivian speak up. "I don't need you to take responsibility for me."

I turned my gaze towards Vivian, only to find that she had gulped down an entire glass of wine in one breath. She was frowning, but I could see a trace of sadness in her eyes.

Then, she changed the subject. "Come on, let's just keep playing."

The next round, I lost.

I was feeling nervous, so I glanced at David, since he was the one who'd ask me a question.

I could feel he was up to no good because of the grin on his face. "Are you brave enough to declare your love for Charles in public, Scarlett?" he asked.

At this point, my heart was racing because of how nervous I was. I looked back at Charles, trying to speak, but I found that I couldn't utter a word.

It was then that he held my hand and said, "You don't have to force yourself to do that."

Surprised by his remark, my eyes widened. "Seriously?" I asked.

"Well, it's just a game." His smile gradually turned cheeky. "But everyone should abide by the rules."

My mood shifted from glee to despair at once, and I shot him a glare. "Did you and David plan to ask me this question together?" I grunted.

Vivian whistled. "Planned or not, rules are rules. Scarlett, you and Charles already have a son together. All you have to do is to express your love for him in public. That's not a problem for you, right? Don't be shy!"

Everyone began to urge me to do it. At this point, refusing them would be disappointing.

While everyone was staring at me, I gathered the courage to speak. "Charles, I..."

Suddenly, we heard a deafening sound.

The next second, the door was busted open.

Startled, I turned around and found that it was Rita.

# Chapter 262 My Wife Doesn't Like Me Touching Other Women's Hands

Scarlett's POV:

Unexpectedly, Charles grabbed me by the waist before lifting me off his lap. Then, he stood in front of me.

My gaze crossed his shoulder, meeting Rita's resentful glare.

Rita demanded angrily, "Scarlett! Were you the one who instigated Lily to destroy the Lively Group?!"

"Hey! Who let this crazy woman in? Where are the bodyguards? Drive her out!" Vivian immediately jumped to my defense, and stormed over with the fury of a scorned woman.

But Rita suddenly brandished a large knife and began waving it threateningly at Vivian. Her eyes burned with manic ferocity. She seemed to breathe fire as she hissed, "Come at me if you have the guts!"

"Vivian, get away from her!" Spencer stepped forward in a flash, holding Vivian protectively in his arms to shield her.

Icey screamed, horrified.

Rita's expression was twisted as she aimed the sharp end of the knife at me. She no longer looked sane. "Answer me, Scarlett! Answer me, or else...!"

I glared back at Rita, my lips a disdainful sneer. "Hey, Rita. Have you ever considered the consequences of your actions?"

As I spoke, I felt a comforting warmth on the back of my hand. Charles was holding my hand firmly, with his other hand set behind his back. Just like that, a strong sense of security engulfed my heart. I felt fearless.

Charles hardened his voice as he ordered, "Rita, put down the knife."

Rita's lips trembled, and she frowned. She stared piteously at him, tears of anguish streaming down her face like a broken faucet. "Charles, do you know what Scarlett had done to me? Do you have any idea?!"

"Rita, you need to calm down. You can't blame Scarlett for everything. She's innocent, and she's done nothing wrong!" Spencer said earnestly, trying to reason with Rita.

Unfortunately, his attempt was in vain. His words infuriated Rita even more, and her hands trembled violently as she gripped her knife. "Liar! Liar, liar! Scarlett's done so many awful things to me! Why the hell are you all speaking for her?! I'm the one who got hurt! I lost everything! I'm the most innocent person here! You're all deceived by her. She's tricked all of you! She deserves to die!"

The more Rita spoke, the more emotional she became. She seemed to have no control of herself or her words, screaming at the top of her lungs. She started swinging the knife wildly as she approached me, eager to hurt me.

All of a sudden, Charles let go of my hand. Subconsciously, I moved forward, wanting to pull him back to safety. But he went too fast and my fingers only brushed against the hem of his clothes.

Without caring for anything else, Charles lunged forward and grabbed the knife in Rita's hand. The blade dug into his flesh, causing a torrent of red to flow out. The gushing blood stung my eyes, filling my heart

with horror.

"Charles...!" Spencer and David screamed in unison, appalled.

Rita stared wide-eyed at Charles's hand around her knife, astonished. For a moment, she was stunned. Then she let out a shrill scream, withdrew her hand, and retreated in horror. Scarlatt's POV:

Unaxpactadly, Charlas grabbad ma by tha waist bafora lifting ma off his lap. Than, ha stood in front of ma.

My gaza crossad his shouldar, maating Rita's rasantful glara.

Rita damandad angrily, "Scarlatt! Wara you tha ona who instigated Lily to dastroy tha Livaly Group?!"

"Hay! Who lat this crazy woman in? Whara ara tha bodyguards? Driva har out!" Vivian immadiataly jumpad to my dafansa, and stormad ovar with tha fury of a scornad woman.

But Rita suddanly brandishad a larga knifa and bagan waving it thraataningly at Vivian. Har ayas burnad with manic farocity. Sha saamad to braatha fira as sha hissad, "Coma at ma if you hava tha guts!"

"Vivian, gat away from har!" Spancar stappad forward in a flash, holding Vivian protactivaly in his arms to shiald har.

Icay scraamad, horrifiad.

Rita's axprassion was twistad as sha aimad tha sharp and of tha knifa at ma. Sha no longar lookad sana. "Answar ma, Scarlatt! Answar ma, or alsa...!"

I glarad back at Rita, my lips a disdainful snaar. "Hay, Rita. Hava you avar considered the consequences of your actions?"

As I spoka, I falt a comforting warmth on tha back of my hand. Charlas was holding my hand firmly, with his other hand sat bahind his back. Just like that, a strong sense of security angulfed my heart. I falt fearlass.

Charlas hardanad his voica as ha ordarad, "Rita, put down tha knifa."

Rita's lips tramblad, and sha frownad. Sha starad pitaously at him, taars of anguish straaming down har faca lika a brokan faucat. "Charlas, do you know what Scarlatt had dona to ma? Do you hava any idaa?!"

"Rita, you naad to calm down. You can't blama Scarlatt for avarything. Sha's innocant, and sha's dona nothing wrong!" Spancar said aarnastly, trying to raason with Rita.

Unfortunataly, his attampt was in vain. His words infuriated Rita avan mora, and har hands tramblad violantly as sha gripped har knifa. "Liar! Liar, liar! Scarlatt's dona so many awful things to ma! Why the hall are you all speaking for har?! I'm the one who got hurt! I lost avarything! I'm the most innocant parson hare! You're all decaived by har. Sha's tricked all of you! Sha desarves to dia!"

Tha mora Rita spoka, tha mora amotional sha bacama. Sha saamad to hava no control of harsalf or har words, scraaming at tha top of har lungs. Sha startad swinging tha knifa wildly as sha approachad ma, aagar to hurt ma.

All of a suddan, Charlas lat go of my hand. Subconsciously, I movad forward, wanting to pull him back to safaty. But ha want too fast and my fingars only brushad against tha ham of his clothas.

Without caring for anything alsa, Charlas lungad forward and grabbad tha knifa in Rita's hand. Tha blada dug into his flash, causing a torrant of rad to flow out. Tha gushing blood stung my ayas, filling my haart with horror.

"Charlas...!" Spancar and David scraamad in unison, appallad.

Rita starad wida-ayad at Charlas's hand around har knifa, astonishad. For a momant, sha was stunnad. Than sha lat out a shrill scraam, withdraw har hand, and ratraatad in horror.

However, Charles remained rooted to the sport, stubbornly keeping his grip on the knife.

I was trembling all over, shock and fear reaching into my bones. Unable to stop myself, tears fell from my eyes.

How could Charles do such a thing? How could he be so reckless as to grab the knife with his bare hand?

My heart ached in dull agony. I rushed to check his hand, which was now badly mutilated. The terrible sight sent shivers down my spine.

"Vivian! Charles needs help! Hurry!" I shouted, panic lacing my voice.

Vivian was quick on the uptake. She grabbed the first aid kit and treated Charles's wound in record time.

I marched angrily toward Rita, my every step filled with burning wrath. Without an ounce of hesitation, I raised my hand and gave Rita's face the hardest slap I could muster. The crisp sound echoed in the air, loud and deafening, soon followed by Rita's agonized scream.

And then, the room fell into pin-drop silence.

For a long time, it remained that way. Then, slowly, Charles called me worriedly. "Scarlett..."

Memories of his gentleness and coldness from the past flooded my mind like an unstoppable tidal wave.

The pain and suffering between us were all caused by Rita!

Anger surged in me once more, snatching away my rationale. I lost control of myself and pounced on Rita like a hungry tiger. Grabbing her neck, I screamed myself hoarse, "You deserve it! You had it coming! Your lies and schemes almost took away everything I had. Now you've lost everything, and it couldn't happen to a better person! You deserve all this! You were never an innocent victim, Rita! And you never should've hurt Charles!"

Rita struggled free and stood up breathlessly. Despite that, she still maintained a defiant glare at me and snapped stubbornly, "Hah! Scarlett, can you swear that you didn't plan all this in secret? You said you hated me and my father! You wanted to destroy the Lively Group the most, don't you? I'm right, aren't I?!"

"More than anything, I wanted you and your father to suffer ten thousand times more than I did!" I snarled. I looked down at her, just like how one looked down at an overconfident ant. She was revolting, pathetic, a sore sight that stung my eyes.

"Even if you die ten thousand times, Rita, it's not enough to atone for the sins that you and your evil father had committed! If you don't provoke me anymore, I'll let you go this time. If you dare to provoke me again in the future, who do you think Charles will protect this time?! Huh?!"

Rita was stunned silly, not knowing what to say. Slowly, her eyes fell on Charles.

I tried to calm myself and press down my anger, and followed her line of sight.

Charles's wound had been bandaged properly courtesy of Vivian, but the gauze was stained red with blood. The sight still horrified me, even though I knew he was out of danger.

Charles looked at me with a warm, loving smile. "Of course I'll protect my beloved, Scarlett."

My heart was touched, and all the fury in me disappeared in an instant, leaving only feelings of tenderness.

"I love you too, Charles," I blurted out despite myself.

"C-Charles!" Rita shouted in disbelief, her face filled with pain. "I once blocked a knife for you, Charles! I saved your life! How could you be so cruel to me? Why are you doing this to me? Why?!"

However, Charles replied to her with a cold glare. "I've already paid you back for that, Rita. Besides, I already knew that you protected me at that time because you saw that my bodyguards have arrived. You knew it wouldn't be a life-threatening situation. That's why you risked it."

His retort rendered Rita completely speechless.

"You're just a vile and greedy woman," Charles sneered hatefully, disgust oozing out of his every pore.

Vivian, who was watching Charles's wound, furrowed her eyebrows. Frowning, she said to me, "Scarlett, the cut seems quite deep. The wound's been bandaged, but I still need to treat it properly. We have to go to the infirmary as soon as possible."

"Right. Let's go now." I nodded at her and held Charles's injured hand carefully. Both of us walked out.

Yet, Rita dashed forward and tried to block our path.

By this point, I didn't want to waste any more time on her and pushed her away decisively. With one swing of my hand, she fell to the floor and lay there in an awkward position.

However, no one paid any attention to her.

We then hurried to the infirmary.

Vivian went to find everything she needed, while I helped Charles lie on the bed.

Charles smiled, but his lips were frighteningly pale. "Don't pull a long face, Scarlett. Smile."

"I can't possibly smile right now..." I looked at him worriedly, concern coloring my gaze.

"I want you to apply medicine to my wound."

"Me...?" I looked at Vivian for approval.

"Sure, you can apply it on him. Open the lid and spray the powder on the wound. It's easy." Vivian handed me the bottle. "I'll go out first. Call me if you need anything."

I sat down next to Charles, carefully unwrapped the gauze, and applied medical powder to his wound as gently as I could.

As I looked at the bloody wound, a single tear fell from my eyes and dropped on the back of my hand.

"Don't cry..." Charles caressed my face with his uninjured hand, wiping my tears gently. "Are you worried about me, Scarlett?"

I didn't want to cry, but before I knew it, my voice was choked with sobs. "What's wrong with you?! You could've grabbed Rita's hand. Why did you grab the knife instead?"

Charles leaned over and kissed my lashes. His low and hoarse voice was full of love. "Because... my wife doesn't like me touching other women's hands."

His words stunned me, and I stopped bandaging his wound. I turned to stare at him in disbelief, but as I did so, I met his sincere eyes.

## Chapter 263 This Is The Last Time

Charles's POV:

"Charles, I'm warning you... If you dare to do something this reckless again and disregard your life, I promise that when you die, I'll immediately take my son with me and remarry another man. See if you can jump out of the grave and stop me!"

Scarlett's eyes were red and moist. Her words were harsh, but her hands, which were bandaging my wound, became gentler and gentler. Crystal tears fell from her eyes, streaming past her cheeks slowly.

"It hurts..." I murmured, pretending to be pitiful.

"Humph. You asked for it."

Scarlett wasn't moved. It seemed she was really furious this time.

"Scarlett, I swear I won't do that again! For the sake of you and our child, I will cherish my life." I promised to Scarlett, my voice stern and my eyes serious.

Scarlett stared quietly into my eyes. Noticing the sincerity in my gaze, she gradually calmed down. She sighed, helpless, and gently hugged me.

"Charles, you have to remember to think carefully before you do anything dangerous. You still have your family. You have me, James, your parents, and your grandparents. We all need you."

There was a sob in Scarlett's tone, and her voice was breaking. I knew she was deeply shaken by today's unexpected turn of events.

I returned her hug, squeezing her lovingly.

"This is the last time, okay?" Scarlett cried pleadingly.

"Okay. Should it happen next time, may I be impotent!"

That amused her. Scarlett smiled through her tears, and the sight of her sweetly upturned lips made me feel better.

"Let's go home, Scarlett."

"Okay."

Spencer's POV:

I didn't expect that the party would end up like this, no thanks to Rita.

Scarlett helped the injured Charles leave, so did David and his fiancee.

That left only Vivian and me in the room. All of a sudden, the atmosphere between us seemed to turn ambiguous. I began to feel warm all over.

Ever since I slept with Vivian, I couldn't stop myself from paying attention to her.

Just like right now, my eyes couldn't move away from her. She had on delicate make-up, and was dressed particularly enchantingly today. The wine-red Chanel strapless dress set her sexy figure off, showing her alluring curves. She leaned on the black leather sofa lazily, a glass of cocktail in her slender hand. She looked like the fascinating Siren foretold in old myths. The smell of alcohol mixed with the fragrance unique to a woman crept into my nose.

Charlas's POV:

"Charlas, I'm warning you... If you dara to do somathing this racklass again and disragard your lifa, I promisa that whan you dia, I'll immadiataly taka my son with ma and ramarry anothar man. Saa if you can jump out of tha grava and stop ma!"

Scarlatt's ayas wara rad and moist. Har words wara harsh, but har hands, which wara bandaging my wound, bacama gantlar and gantlar. Crystal taars fall from har ayas, straaming past har chaaks slowly.

"It hurts..." I murmurad, pratanding to ba pitiful.

"Humph. You askad for it."

Scarlatt wasn't movad. It saamad sha was raally furious this tima.

"Scarlatt, I swaar I won't do that again! For the sake of you and our child, I will charish my life." I promised to Scarlatt, my voice starn and my eyes serious.

Scarlatt starad quiatly into my ayas. Noticing the sincarity in my gaza, she gradually calmad down. She sighad, halplass, and gantly huggad ma.

"Charlas, you hava to ramambar to think carafully bafora you do anything dangarous. You still hava your family. You hava ma, Jamas, your parants, and your grandparants. Wa all naad you."

Thara was a sob in Scarlatt's tona, and har voica was braaking. I knaw sha was daaply shakan by today's unaxpactad turn of avants.

I raturnad har hug, squaazing har lovingly.

"This is tha last tima, okay?" Scarlatt criad plaadingly.

"Okay. Should it happan naxt tima, may I ba impotant!"

That amusad har. Scarlatt smilad through har taars, and tha sight of har swaatly upturnad lips mada ma faal battar.

"Lat's go homa, Scarlatt."

"Okay."

Spancar's POV:

I didn't axpact that the party would and up like this, no thanks to Rita.

Scarlatt halpad tha injurad Charlas laava, so did David and his fiancaa.

That laft only Vivian and ma in tha room. All of a suddan, tha atmosphara batwaan us saamad to turn ambiguous. I bagan to faal warm all ovar.

Evar sinca I slapt with Vivian, I couldn't stop mysalf from paying attantion to har.

Just lika right now, my ayas couldn't mova away from har. Sha had on dalicata maka-up, and was drassad particularly anchantingly today. Tha wina-rad Chanal straplass drass sat har saxy figura off, showing har alluring curvas. Sha laanad on tha black laathar sofa lazily, a glass of cocktail in har slandar hand. Sha lookad lika tha fascinating Siran foratold in old myths. Tha small of alcohol mixad with tha fragranca uniqua to a woman crapt into my nosa.

To suppress the desire in my heart, I hurriedly picked up a glass of ice water and gulped it down in one full swing.

"Vivian, that dress looks good on you. When did you buy it?" I lowered my eyes as I spoke, trying to hide the amazement in my gaze.

"It's a gift from Emily, actually. I think it's especially suitable for seducing men." So saying, Vivian flipped her hair nonchalantly and threw me a meaningful look.

Emily...? Why did Vivian accept clothes from Emily?

I had to admit, the dress was so good on her! She looked like the epitome of sex appeal.

Suddenly, I felt that something was about to gush out of my nose. I stood up in a hurry, alarmed.

"Uh, I'm going upstairs. See you tomorrow!"

Once again, I fled from my confrontation with Vivian.

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Later that evening, I was taking a shower when the doorbell suddenly rang.

I turned off the faucet and put on a bath towel in a hurry. Then, I headed out of the shower to open the door.

Contrary to my expectations, the person who came into view right as I opened the door was a slightly drunk Vivian.

As I was still in a daze by her sudden appearance, Vivian strode inside casually. She then turned around and locked the door.

"It's so late. What's up?" I couldn't help swallowing a nervous gulp, and my heartbeat was increasing rapidly.

Vivian did not answer. Before I could react, she pounced on me and pressed me on the king-sized bed.

"Of course, I'm here to meet my physiological needs. Last time, I was too drunk and didn't perform well. I'd like to experience your skills wholeheartedly this time."

Vivian's slender fingers drew circles on my chest, tempting me further. Try as I might, I couldn't help but find it distracting.

"Vivian, I told you that I'll be responsible for you, but please don't act like this." Despite my words, I was struggling to keep my sanity.

"Don't say such disappointing words. We're both grow-ups. You don't need to be responsible for it." She pressed a finger against my mouth, silencing me.

"But..."

"Shh. Every minute of the night is precious. Don't you want me, Spencer?"

Of course I wanted this sexy succubus! I wanted her more than anything. However, my reason told me that doing so would be wrong.

Soon, I didn't have time to think about whether it was right or wrong. Vivian began to kiss me on my lips, and slowly moved to my face and neck. When her hot lips kissed my sensitive Adam's apple, I lost

control.

My desire was akin to a fierce tiger that had escaped its cage, roaring fiercely, trying to swallow this alluring woman. Instantly, I took the initiative and pressed Vivian on the bed.

"You asked for it!"

I couldn't wait to tear the red dress that distracted me so much earlier. I kissed Vivian fiercely, and my hands reached for her voluptuous chest. Meanwhile, she wrapped her arms around my neck obediently and responded eagerly to my kiss.

All the obstacles between us disappeared in an instant, and the surging tide of desire drowned us.

My scent lingered in Vivian's body. I ignored her pleas for mercy, again and again, until we finally collapsed on the bed, exhausted.

The moon hung high in the middle of the night sky, witness to our love.

After resting for a while, I wanted to hold Vivian in my arms. However, she pushed me away.

She quickly got up from the bed, took my shirt, and put it on. When I saw her bare legs dangling in front of me, the fire of desire began to stir again inside me.

Vivian then bent over to give me a soft kiss.

"Good night, Spencer. Remember to dream of me!" After saying that, she swung her waist seductively before leaving my sight.

I opened my mouth, wanting her to stay, but I quickly realized that I didn't even have an excuse to do that.

After my desire was released, there was only endless emptiness left. I could still smell Vivian's lingering fragrance, which ignited wild fantasies in my head.

Physical reactions wouldn't lie. Being together with Vivian made me feel unprecedentedly happy, that was fact. This was the happiness my previous partners failed to give me, both physically and mentally.

I couldn't help but touch my chest. Had I really fallen in love with her?

Chapter 264 A Weird Blind Date

Spencer's POV:

The following day, as soon as I walked out of my room, I saw Vivian in a gorgeous dress. It looked like she had somewhere to be.

"Vivian, hang on. Are you going somewhere? And if you are, who are you meeting? Is it a man or a woman?" Naturally, I was upset.

"Spencer, this is my life and I don't have to report everything I do to you. So, don't interrogate me like a nagging wife." Vivian rolled her eyes and made a face at me.

"Who are you calling a nagging wife? Are you talking about me?" I could no longer regulate my voice at this point, and I was practically shouting at her.

'Damn it.

How is she always on point?' I wondered.

"Whatever, Spencer. I don't want to fight with you so early in the morning. Your blind date, Nicole will meet with you at ten in the morning. Don't say I didn't remind you, okay? Anyway, I'm rooting for you!"

Vivian raised an eyebrow at me and smirked before she turned around and began to walk away.

'What is wrong with her? Why is she so happy that I'm going to see another woman?

If she wants to leave, tough shit. I won't let her!' I remarked inwardly.

"Stop!"

I grabbed Vivian's arm and pulled her towards me.

"You're the one who set me up with Nicole, remember? How could you be absent for such an important date?" I asked. The only reason I said that was to piss her off.

"Spencer, don't cross the line!" Vivian's face turned grim.

Now, I was regretting that I said those words. However, I didn't want to see her leave my sight while she was dressed like that.

"If you leave, I'm going to tell my mom that you slept with me! See if she's going to pay you anymore!" I warned her.

Vivian gritted her teeth, reluctantly agreeing to stay.

Somehow, I felt relieved.

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After breakfast, Nicole came right on time.

However, I didn't expect that my mother would come with her. 'Is she planning to keep an eye on my blind date?'

"Spencer, take this seriously. I honestly think that Nicole is a good woman."

She then gave me a look of encouragement before taking Vivian to another table.

Even as I looked at Nicole's delicate face, I knew that I had no feelings for her.

"Nicole, does it bother you that I've slept with other women before?"

Even though it was impolite to say something like that, I wanted her to know that I had no interest in her.

And just as I had expected, Nicole fell silent.

Spancar's POV:

Tha following day, as soon as I walkad out of my room, I saw Vivian in a gorgaous drass. It lookad lika sha had somawhara to ba.

"Vivian, hang on. Ara you going somawhara? And if you ara, who ara you maating? Is it a man or a woman?" Naturally, I was upsat.

"Spancar, this is my lifa and I don't hava to raport avarything I do to you. So, don't intarrogata ma lika a nagging wifa." Vivian rollad har ayas and mada a faca at ma.

"Who ara you calling a nagging wifa? Ara you talking about ma?" I could no longar ragulata my voica at this point, and I was practically shouting at har.

'Damn it.

How is sha always on point?' I wondarad.

"Whatavar, Spancar. I don't want to fight with you so aarly in tha morning. Your blind data, Nicola will maat with you at tan in tha morning. Don't say I didn't ramind you, okay? Anyway, I'm rooting for you!"

Vivian raisad an ayabrow at ma and smirkad bafora sha turnad around and bagan to walk away.

'What is wrong with har? Why is sha so happy that I'm going to saa anothar woman?

If sha wants to laava, tough shit. I won't lat har!' I ramarkad inwardly.

"Stop!"

I grabbad Vivian's arm and pullad har towards ma.

"You'ra tha ona who sat ma up with Nicola, ramambar? How could you be absent for such an important data?" I askad. The only reason I said that was to piss har off.

"Spancar, don't cross tha lina!" Vivian's faca turnad grim.

Now, I was ragratting that I said thosa words. Howavar, I didn't want to saa har laava my sight whila sha was drassad lika that.

"If you laava, I'm going to tall my mom that you slapt with ma! Saa if sha's going to pay you anymora!" I warnad har.

Vivian grittad har taath, raluctantly agraaing to stay.

Somahow, I falt raliavad.

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Aftar braakfast, Nicola cama right on tima.

Howavar, I didn't axpact that my mothar would coma with har. 'Is sha planning to kaap an aya on my blind data?'

"Spancar, taka this sariously. I honastly think that Nicola is a good woman."

Sha than gava ma a look of ancouragamant bafora taking Vivian to anothar tabla.

Evan as I lookad at Nicola's dalicata faca, I knaw that I had no faalings for har.

"Nicola, doas it bothar you that I'va slapt with othar woman bafora?"

Evan though it was impolita to say somathing lika that, I wantad har to know that I had no intarast in har.

And just as I had axpactad, Nicola fall silant.

'Well, it seems that this matter has been settled!'

"Spencer, I don't mind that you've had relationships in the past," Nicole replied firmly.

"Do you mind if I ask why?" Honestly, her answer stunned me.

"If you want... I can sleep with you." Nicole's beautiful countenance turned red. She was looking at me with a wide-eyed gaze, as though she was ready and willing to sleep with me whenever I wanted.

And no, I was the one who clammed up.

"Your mother told me that you've been supporting poor children since ten years ago. I believe that an altruistic man like you will be a wonderful husband. Besides, nobody can guarantee that her husband won't ever cheat on her for the rest of their lives together. Are you of the same mind as I am?"

Nicole sounded very sincere. But even so, I still wasn't moved.

I couldn't resist the urge to glance at Vivian's direction.

There, I saw my mother handing her a bank card, and she took it.

Frustration overcame my heart again, and I subconsciously frowned.

"Spencer? Are you listening?"

Nicole's voice pulled me back to reality. Ignoring the disappointment in my heart, I braced myself and prepared to deal with the current situation.

"You think too highly of me, Nicole. For a family like mine, charity is just tokenism. Allow me to give you a piece of advice. Don't ever marry a man you barely know."

"Please do not belittle yourself like that. In my opinion, your honesty just proves how noble you are, and I'm touched by your bluntness."

Nicole's eyes lit up. It seemed that she really did think of me that way.

Hurriedly, I averted my gaze to look at Vivian again.

I happened to notice that she was happily putting the bank card into her pocket.

'God damn it!' I cursed inwardly

I glared at her in an attempt to make her feel my displeasure. However, she just gave me a defiant smile and pouted at Nicole's direction.

It seemed like she was saying "She's your date. Why are you looking at me?"

Nicole continued to praise me for my kindness. If I was being completely honest, I never thought that kindness was a word that would be used to describe me one day.

For the rest of the day, she just kept on following me around. It was pretty annoying.

Finally, I decided to send Vivian a message.

"I don't care how you do it. Just take this annoying woman away from me! Now!"

"Sorry, Spencer. I'm on a date, too, and I don't have time to deal with your problem. Besides, I'm your private doctor, not your personal assistant," she replied.

After reading her response, I almost crushed my phone.

Feeling helpless, I decided to send Charles and David a message to invite them to play tennis. I planned to use this as an excuse to get rid of Nicole.

David refused me without a shred of mercy.

As I wallowed in despair, Charles replied, "Come by my company's tennis court."

'Thank God!' I exclaimed inwardly.

"Sorry, Nicole, but I'll have to take off. Charles has invited me to play tennis with him. I'll assign someone to escort you home." I tried my best to hold back my laughter as I said those words.

"You play tennis? That's awesome. I love playing tennis! Do you mind if I tag along?" Nicole asked with glee.

With no other choice, I had to compromise.

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About an hour later, Nicole and I arrived at the Moore Group's tennis court.

"Spencer, are you going to introduce me to your friend?" Charles appeared to be surprised that Nicole was with me.

It was then that I introduced them to each other.

"You're on a blind date, huh?" Charles shot me a knowing glance while teasing me.

I began to feel uneasy. He knew about my messy relationship with Vivian. And now, I had brought a blind date along to our tennis game. This only made me look even guiltier.

Nicole didn't notice my eye contact with Charles, for she was really excited to meet him.

To be fair, very few women could remain calm upon seeing his handsome face.

After changing into her sportswear, Nicole volunteered to play a match against Charles.

Naturally, I didn't stop her. I knew that he wouldn't show her any mercy just because she was a woman.

And sure enough, she could barely score against him. After losing miserably, Nicole's face became gloomy.

"Just give up, Nicole. You're no match for him. Allow me to show you how it's done." I took the tennis racket from her.

Nicole nodded in response before standing quietly by the side while taking pictures of me and Charles.

When it was time for dinner, I suggested, "Charles, let's have dinner together."

"Pass. I'd rather go home and have dinner with my wife," he said.

Then, Charles walked away without even glancing back.

'Fuck! He's choosing his wife over his best friend. That asshole!'

### Chapter 265 A Romantic Nigh

Spencer's POV:

After Charles left me for dead, I turned to Nicole, feeling helpless. She didn't look like she had any intention of leaving. And she was looking at me with the same hopeful gaze as she did this morning.

"Let's go have dinner," I said. She had been with me for an entire day. Out of politeness, I decided to invite her to dinner before sending her home.

"Sounds great!" Nicole nodded readily.

Not long after, I drove her to a pizza restaurant. We sat a table in the corner.

"Mr. Moore kind of seemed standoffish. Are all CEOs like him?" Nicole asked tentatively.

"What made you say that?" I was honestly curious of how people viewed Charles.

"When he was looking at me earlier, his eyes were so cold and intimidating. Honestly, I was scared!" Nicole said as she drew back her neck.

I nodded at her and said, "Well, he's like that to everyone."

"I heard that he's very protective of his wife, so it made me think that he's a passionate man." Nicole took a sip of orange juice and continued, "I once saw his wife on TV. She's so beautiful and elegant. She must be really good at hiding her true self."

"What does that mean?" I paused from chewing my pizza as I looked at her.

She looked around before leaning close to me. "Don't you know? Some people say that her father was a criminal and he committed suicide by jumping off a building. Her mother, on the other hand, had an affair with another man. A woman from such a complicated family must be conniving."

As I looked at Nicole's face, I kind of felt scared of her.

Even though she looked harmless, her words were sharper than knives.

At first, I thought that Nicole's pure temperament was similar to that of Scarlett's. But now, I realized that she was nothing like Scarlett. Scarlett would never speak ill of anyone behind their backs.

"Do you agree, Spencer?" Nicole flashed me a grin, appearing to be sweet and innocent.

But to her chagrin, I just felt disgusted of her fake kindness.

Abruptly, I put down my pizza. "You probably don't know how I'm related to Charles and Scarlett."

"How are you related to them?" asked Nicole.

"We all grew up together. So, don't ever speak ill of them in front of me. You're not just insulting them, you're insulting me, too. And I don't like it."

Right after I said those words, Nicole was too dumbfounded to utter another word.

Soon, we finished eating and left the restaurant at once.

On our way to her house, Nicole kept silent. She just sat in the passenger seat, looking down.

When the car finally stopped, she whispered to me, "Sorry for what I did earlier, Spencer. I shouldn't have spoken ill of your friends behind their backs."

Spancar's POV:

Aftar Charlas laft ma for daad, I turnad to Nicola, faaling halplass. Sha didn't look lika sha had any intantion of laaving. And sha was looking at ma with tha sama hopaful gaza as sha did this morning.

"Lat's go hava dinnar," I said. Sha had baan with ma for an antira day. Out of politanass, I dacidad to

invita har to dinnar bafora sanding har homa.

"Sounds graat!" Nicola noddad raadily.

Not long aftar, I drova har to a pizza rastaurant. Wa sat a tabla in tha cornar.

"Mr. Moora kind of saamad standoffish. Ara all CEOs lika him?" Nicola askad tantativaly.

"What mada you say that?" I was honastly curious of how paopla viawad Charlas.

"Whan ha was looking at ma aarliar, his ayas wara so cold and intimidating. Honastly, I was scarad!" Nicola said as sha draw back har nack.

I noddad at har and said, "Wall, ha's lika that to avaryona."

"I haard that ha's vary protactiva of his wifa, so it mada ma think that ha's a passionata man." Nicola took a sip of oranga juica and continuad, "I onca saw his wifa on TV. Sha's so baautiful and alagant. Sha must ba raally good at hiding har trua salf."

"What doas that maan?" I pausad from chawing my pizza as I lookad at har.

Sha lookad around bafora laaning closa to ma. "Don't you know? Soma paopla say that har fathar was a criminal and ha committad suicida by jumping off a building. Har mothar, on tha othar hand, had an affair with anothar man. A woman from such a complicated family must be conniving."

As I lookad at Nicola's faca, I kind of falt scarad of har.

Evan though sha lookad harmlass, har words wara sharpar than knivas.

At first, I thought that Nicola's pura tamparamant was similar to that of Scarlatt's. But now, I raalizad that sha was nothing lika Scarlatt. Scarlatt would navar spaak ill of anyona bahind thair backs.

"Do you agraa, Spancar?" Nicola flashad ma a grin, appaaring to ba swaat and innocant.

But to har chagrin, I just falt disgustad of har faka kindnass.

Abruptly, I put down my pizza. "You probably don't know how I'm ralatad to Charlas and Scarlatt."

"How ara you ralated to tham?" asked Nicola.

"Wa all graw up togathar. So, don't avar spaak ill of tham in front of ma. You'ra not just insulting tham, you'ra insulting ma, too. And I don't lika it."

Right aftar I said thosa words, Nicola was too dumbfounded to uttar another word.

Soon, wa finishad aating and laft tha rastaurant at onca.

On our way to har housa, Nicola kapt silant. Sha just sat in tha passangar saat, looking down.

Whan tha car finally stoppad, sha whisparad to ma, "Sorry for what I did aarliar, Spancar. I shouldn't hava spokan ill of your friands bahind thair backs."

"I hope you keep in mind that gossips are worse than poison," I said.

"I understand." Nicole nodded before getting out of the car. Once she was gone, I drove away immediately.

Charles' POV:

After picking up Scarlett, we went back to the Moore mansion.

"Why is there a baby's crib in the master bedroom?" Scarlett asked in confusion.

"I prepared it for James," I replied.

"But the bed in the master bedroom is big enough for the three of us. Is it even necessary to put in a baby's crib? Besides, autumn is coming, so it'll be colder at nights. I want to sleep with James in my arms." Scarlett gazed at me intently.

Her pajamas were quite thin, and they accentuated her vivacious figure.

I put my arm around her shoulder. "Someone else will warm up your son's bed in the future. That's not your duty. You, however, can only be mine!"

Every time that I saw how much Scarlett cared about James, it made me feel jealous.

Scarlett glared at me.

I planted a kiss on her cheek and said, "I'm going to take a shower first. Do you mind preparing James' crib?"

"No problem." Even though Scarlett was initially against it, she decided to agree to my proposal.

By the time I got out of the bathroom, James was already asleep in his crib.

Scarlett was lying on her side of the bed. Her pajamas were slightly unveiled, revealing her smooth, fair shoulder. I couldn't resist the urge to embrace her and kiss her neck.

Within an instant, her face was as red as an apple. In a charming voice, she said, "Let go of me."

But I held her even tighter. "We should've let James sleep in the crib earlier."

"Are you really so jealous of your own son?" Scarlett looked up at me, visibly annoyed.

"You're the only one I can love with all my heart." I stared at her exposed snow-white skin and began to kiss her again. Slowly, I went from her chest to her neck, going up to her cheeks, and finally stopping at her lips.

"James is here. Let's do this in another room." Scarlett pushed me away and ran to the door, panting slightly.

"No. This is our room, and I wanna do it here." Without hesitation, I lifted her up and threw her back to the bed.

The soft mattress sank when she landed on it.

I removed my pajamas and went to bed with her.

"Since you don't want to go to another room, you should at least turn off the lights," suggested Scarlett.

After turning off the lights, I slid my hands into Scarlett's clothes to fondle her round breasts. I could see that she was trembling with pleasure, even though she was muttering "no".

I didn't want to stop what I was doing, and even left love bites on Scarlett's collarbone and shoulder. Feeling that she was no longer resisting, I pressed her body against mine as I fucked her. I could feel how fast her heart was beating.

"Do you want more?" Gently, I blew into her ear, making her tremble once more.

Scarlett giggled at me. "Don't do that! It tickles!" Even though it was a complaint, her voice sounded so bewitching.

"Allow me to satisfy you," I said.

Just before I could get on top of her, I heard James crying in the crib next to the bed. Even though I didn't want to, I knew I had to stop.

"Turn on the light. Our son is awake," Scarlett muttered as she sat up on the bed.

Impatiently, I turned on the light, looking at James with resentment in my eyes. 'Is he trying to cause trouble on purpose?' I wondered.

Scarlett nestled the boy in her arms, lightly shaking him. Soon, James stopped crying.

"I think he did that on purpose!" Upon seeing how the boy reacted, I became angry and suspicious of him.

"Why are you getting mad at our child? Just shush, Charles." Scarlett continued coaxing James. And just as she was about to put him back to his crib, he began to cry again. Thus, she had to cradle James again.

At this point, my desire was about to die down. "We should just ignore him next time," I remarked with disdain.

Scarlett glared at me.

I got out of bed, still half-naked. Then, I hugged her from behind, gently rubbing my penis against her.

"Don't do that..." Scarlett groaned.

"Then, put James back on the crib," I said through gritted teeth.

"But he's not asleep yet," she said.

"Hang on. I'm gonna grab something." Having said that, I left the master bedroom and went to the baby's room. There, I picked up a turtle plushie from James' pile of toys and went back to the master bedroom. I showed Scarlett the turtle and said, "James will sleep with this turtle, and you'll sleep with me."

I put James in his crib, and placed the turtle into his arms.

I let out a deep sigh of relief when I saw him drift into sleep.

It was then that I held Scarlett's hand and led her back to the bed at once. "I think it's fine if we do it now."

"I'm still kind of worried." Scarlett wanted to get up, but I locked her in my embrace, making her sat on top of me. "You've been so used to lying below me. Does it feel good whenever you're riding me?"

"Charles, you pervert!"

"Shush, honey. Just focus." Afterwards, I helped her take her clothes off and began to kiss her again.

Chapter 266 Being Touched Again

Scarlett's POV:

Yesterday, Charles didn't stop fucking me until it was midnight, so it was difficult for me to get up on

time today. After turning off the alarm clock, I turned over, still half-asleep.

"Scarlett," Charles muttered before he kissed me. "You'll be late if you keep lying around in bed. Come on, get up! I'm heading downstairs to make breakfast," he added.

"Got it." Despite my reluctant, I got up.

After washing my face and brushing my teeth, I heard James babbling. I hurried to his crib to check on him.

In the crib, he was looking at me with bright eyes, reaching his hands out to me. "Ma! Momma," he mumbled.

My heart melted at how cute he was. Gently, I held my little angel's hand. "Do you want a hug, James?"

James flashed me a bright smile, babbling with excitement.

"You're so adorable!" I cradled James in my arms, coaxing him. He appeared to be sleepy, and he soon fell asleep.

All of a sudden, I heard a knock on the door. It was Tracy. She came up here to tell me that it was time to go downstairs and have breakfast.

As I looked at my baby in my arms, I was reluctant to leave him.

"I'll take care of James for you." Tracy volunteered to help me, and carefully took James from my arms.

With that, I went downstairs to the dining room after exhorting her to be careful.

In the dining room, Charles was serving breakfast on the table. The way he looked so attentive was so tempting to me. Beneath his rolled-up shirt sleeves, his long arms and slender hands were exposed. Even though they weren't that muscular, I knew that they were strong.

Realizing that my mind was wandering, I blushed. After composing myself, I went to the table to sit down.

Charles was looking at me expectantly, and his expression made me giggle. "It's really good. Thank you for breakfast, Charles."

"It's all worth it as long as you enjoy the food, my love." It was then that Charles sat down and ate with satisfaction. After a while, he suggested, "Hey, Scarlett. If you're not too busy, do you want to play tennis together this afternoon?"

"Oh, too bad. I'm a little busy lately because of the new program. I can't go," I responded, looking at him

with regret.

"Oh," Charles replied casually. But I noticed the faint sadness from his eyes.

I moved my chair closer to his and held his hand.

Charles smiled at me, and asked, "What's the theme of the new program?"

"It's about a mother's postpartum journey," I answered.

"Sounds meaningful," he said.

"Certainly. Mothers face many challenges even after giving birth. I just want everyone to see the life of a mother postpartum, and hope that they can learn how to be more tolerant and understanding of mothers." After saying that, I let out a sigh. I recalled the time when I just gave birth. So many things happened, and I barely got any time to breathe.

That kind of life was difficult and exhausting.

Charles nodded in agreement. "It's a great idea, Scarlett. But you should know that the theme of your program is too ideal. The law of the jungle is the law of our society. Instead of tackling how others should react towards postpartum mothers, I think you should focus more on the mentality and ability of the mothers themselves after they gave birth."

His remark left me stunned, and there was nothing I could say against it.

After a moment of pondering, I held Charles' hand and asked, "Can you do me a favor?" Scarlatt's POV:

Yastarday, Charlas didn't stop fucking ma until it was midnight, so it was difficult for ma to gat up on tima today. Aftar turning off tha alarm clock, I turnad ovar, still half-aslaap.

"Scarlatt," Charlas muttarad bafora ha kissad ma. "You'll ba lata if you kaap lying around in bad. Coma on, gat up! I'm haading downstairs to maka braakfast," ha addad.

"Got it." Daspita my raluctant, I got up.

Aftar washing my faca and brushing my taath, I haard Jamas babbling. I hurriad to his crib to chack on him.

In tha crib, ha was looking at ma with bright ayas, raaching his hands out to ma. "Ma! Momma," ha mumblad.

My haart maltad at how cuta ha was. Gantly, I hald my littla angal's hand. "Do you want a hug, Jamas?"

Jamas flashad ma a bright smila, babbling with axcitamant.

"You'ra so adorabla!" I cradlad Jamas in my arms, coaxing him. Ha appaarad to ba slaapy, and ha soon fall aslaap.

All of a suddan, I haard a knock on tha door. It was Tracy. Sha cama up hara to tall ma that it was tima to go downstairs and hava braakfast.

As I lookad at my baby in my arms, I was raluctant to laava him.

"I'll taka cara of Jamas for you." Tracy voluntaarad to halp ma, and carafully took Jamas from my arms.

With that, I want downstairs to tha dining room aftar axhorting har to ba caraful.

In tha dining room, Charlas was sarving braakfast on tha tabla. Tha way ha lookad so attantiva was so tampting to ma. Banaath his rollad-up shirt slaavas, his long arms and slandar hands wara axposad. Evan though thay waran't that muscular, I knaw that thay wara strong.

Raalizing that my mind was wandaring, I blushad. Aftar composing mysalf, I want to tha tabla to sit down.

Charlas was looking at ma axpactantly, and his axprassion mada ma giggla. "It's raally good. Thank you for braakfast, Charlas."

"It's all worth it as long as you anjoy tha food, my lova." It was than that Charlas sat down and ata with satisfaction. Aftar a whila, ha suggastad, "Hay, Scarlatt. If you'ra not too busy, do you want to play tannis togathar this aftarnoon?"

"Oh, too bad. I'm a littla busy lataly bacausa of the naw program. I can't go," I rasponded, looking at him with ragrat.

"Oh," Charlas rapliad casually. But I noticed the faint sadness from his ayas.

I movad my chair closar to his and hald his hand.

Charlas smilad at ma, and askad, "What's tha thama of tha naw program?"

"It's about a mothar's postpartum journay," I answarad.

"Sounds maaningful," ha said.

"Cartainly. Mothars faca many challangas avan aftar giving birth. I just want avaryona to saa tha lifa of a mothar postpartum, and hopa that thay can laarn how to ba mora tolarant and undarstanding of

mothars." Aftar saying that, I lat out a sigh. I racallad tha tima whan I just gava birth. So many things happanad, and I baraly got any tima to braatha.

That kind of lifa was difficult and axhausting.

Charlas noddad in agraamant. "It's a graat idaa, Scarlatt. But you should know that tha thama of your program is too idaal. Tha law of tha jungla is tha law of our sociaty. Instaad of tackling how others should react towards postpartum mothers, I think you should focus more on the mantality and ability of tha mothers thamselves after they gave birth."

His ramark laft ma stunnad, and thara was nothing I could say against it.

Aftar a momant of pondaring, I hald Charlas' hand and askad, "Can you do ma a favor?"

"Lay it on me." Charles interlocked his fingers with mine.

"Your company is an industry giant. I'm sure there's a lot of moms in your company, right? Do you mind if I get in touch with some of them to get some materials for my program?" I asked expectantly. Upon seeing Charles frown, I immediately added, "If you can't help me out, I'll go ask Spencer."

When he heard me say that, he shot me a cold glance. "I didn't say no. Don't ask Spencer for help. Otherwise, I'm going to give him hell on the tennis court."

I chuckled, leaning on his shoulder. "Well, that's settled then."

Charles hugged me, chuckling helplessly.

After eating breakfast, I went to the TV station to work.

When my morning meeting finished, I received a call from Nina. "Why aren't you here yet? The food is ready," she said.

"I'll be there in a bit," I answered.

About twenty minutes later, I arrived at the restaurant.

"Sorry for being late," I remarked.

Nina smirked at me and bantered, "What a busy woman! It seems like we won't be able to have lunch together in the future."

I giggled at her remark and sat across her. "Oh, stop it, you! As long as it's a work day, I'll always have lunch with you. Besides, I'm rarely late for our lunch dates!"

"Um... Scarlett? I might not be able to have lunch with you all the time." Nina suddenly sounded serious.

I looked at her with a smirk on my face and asked, "Is it because your husband thinks that I'm taking up too much of your time? Don't worry about it. You can meet up with him during lunch breaks, if you want. I'll just eat alone."

"That's not it. I'm planning to resign. I want to offer legal aid to the less fortunate."

"Really?" I was surprised.

Nina nodded in response before she let out a sigh. "Lately, I've been in contact with a lot of vulnerable groups who are having a hard time getting help from anyone. I just woke up one day, overwhelmed by sympathy, and I wanted to do something to help them. It just so happens that I'll be able to use what I learned to help more people in need. That's why I came to this conclusion."

"So, you're really going to leave the TV station?" I asked.

Nervously, Nina looked into my eyes and asked, "Do you think I'm being impulsive and irrational?"

I shook my head at her and smiled. "Not at all! I'm with you one hundred percent, Nina. If you say that this is something you want to do, just do it! And if there's anything I can do to help, you can call me anytime."

Moved by my words, Nina hugged me earnestly. "I knew you'd understand me!"

"Of course!" I caressed her back and waited until she calmed down from the excitement before saying, "Let's eat."

After a while, Abner appeared.

After greeting me, he sat down next to Nina and took away the fruit wine beside her. "Why are you drinking alcohol, Nina?" Abner asked disapprovingly.

At once, Nina explained, "I ordered one for Scarlett, but the waiter also poured a glass for me. I didn't even touch mine. I swear!"

Abner's face softened.

"Why can't Nina have that?" I asked, visibly confused. This particular fruit wine contained very little alcohol, and it was one of Nina's favorite beverages.

Abner held Nina in his arms as they intimately gazed into each other's eyes. "We're preparing to have a baby. During this period of time, we decided to stay away from alcohol."

I smiled at them and expressed my sincerest congratulations.

When lunch almost over, I received a message from Charles. "Honey, what did you have for lunch?"

I turned on my phone's camera and took a picture of the food for him.

Unexpectedly, Charles called me. The way he questioned me sounded so unfriendly. "Who are you having lunch with?"

"Nina and Abner," I said.

"Scarlett, you should keep your distance from married men." Charles sounded so jealous.

I wasn't sure why, so I went back to the chat box to take a look at the photo again. It was then that I noticed that I had accidentally captured Abner's hand in the photo.

No wonder Charles got jealous all of a sudden!

I wasn't sure how to react to his jealousy. "Abner is loyal to Nina. Don't overthink it," I explained.

"You sound envious. I'm also loyal to you, aren't I?"

"Oh, please, Charles! The whole world knows about your love history," I said.

After a moment of silence, Charles said in a serious tone, "Yes, but now... you're the only woman I love. There is nobody else in this world who loves you more than I do."

The sound of his mellow voice was music to my ears. It was so pleasant to hear that my heart sang.

"You're so narcissistic," I joked, hiding my glee.

"So, what? I don't care about anyone else, as long as you cherish me. You will cherish me, won't you?" asked Charles.

Upon raising my head, I happened to meet Nina's gossipy eyes. Embarrassed, I cleared my throat.

"Scarlett? Why aren't you answering me?" Charles sounded like he was threatening me somehow.

At this point, I felt helpless. "There's no doubt that I'll cherish you," I replied.

"I'll keep that in mind," he said.

It wasn't easy to pacify Charles. By the time I finished with the phone call, Nina had already paid for the bill.

Soon, we went back to the TV station for work.

During the afternoon, I continued the meeting with the crew of the program. It took us so much time to determine the content and form of the program. At long last, the name of the new program was decided before the end of the meeting; "The Great New Mothers".

Once the meeting had concluded, everyone left the meeting room one after another. One of my colleagues got left behind and walked beside me. "Scarlett, are you going to be in charge of the sponsorship this time?"

I smiled at her and said, "Yup! I'll take care of it. Don't worry."

My colleague was overjoyed to hear me say that.

After work, I walked out of the TV station and I saw Charles at a glance.

He was leaning against the front of the car, staring at his phone. His slender figure and perfect face made him the focus of passersby.

"What are you doing here?" I approached Charles and threw myself into his arms.

He planted a kiss on my cheek as his eyes lit up. "Because I missed you."

Even though we were intimate on a daily basis, he still never failed to make me blush. It was kind of amazing how every interaction with Charles made my heart race like I was a teenage girl who had fallen in love for the first time.

Tracy winked at me. "Mr. Moore has been here for over an hour," she said.

I stared at Charles, visibly concerned. "Why didn't you call me? The meeting dragged on for a little longer than usual today. If you'd have told me earlier, I would've finished it sooner."

Chapter 267 Baby, This Will Be The Last Time

Charles' POV:

Scarlett frowned as she stared at me.

Her bright, beautiful eyes bewitched me. And it rendered me unable to resist the urge to lean close to her.

Scarlett seemed a little nervous. To my surprise, she closed her eyes and pecked me on the lips.

I was stunned by her initiative.

After taking a step back, she stared me with coquettish eyes. "Let's go back to the mansion tonight, okay?"

"Sure." I licked my lips, feeling unsatisfied.

Then, I locked my eyes on Scarlett.

Confused, she asked, "What...?"

Before she could finish speaking, I held the back of her head, bent over, and kissed her. Then, I jammed my tongue into her mouth and gave her a French kiss.

Tracy yelped for a second, but she soon quieted down and averted her gaze from us.

Meanwhile, Scarlett whimpered and resisted. I embraced her tightly and kissed her more passionately. Seconds later, she indulged herself in our kiss. She wrapped her arms around my neck and began to kiss me back.

After a long time, I finally let go of her. I pressed my forehead against her and suggested, "Maybe we shouldn't go back to the mansion today."

Scarlett glared at me, blushing. "But I want to go back!"

"Well, I guess it would still work as long as we do it quietly," I said.

"Charles!" Scarlett exclaimed.

Seeing that she was about to get pissed, I clammed up. But the smile on my face didn't disappear.

Upon our arrival at the Moore mansion, dinner was already served. We greeted the elders and sat beside them.

Grandpa exhorted Scarlett. "You shouldn't spend all of your time working. You should spend more time with your child whenever possible."

Scarlett was ladling a bowl of soup for Grandma when she heard that. "I will, Grandpa," she answered.

Grandpa nodded with satisfaction before turning to look at me. "Charles, is your company lacking in manpower? My friend has a granddaughter named Nancy Wood. She just graduated this month. Do you mind checking if there's a suitable position for her?"

Honestly, my company was never short on manpower, but Grandpa rarely ever asked for favors. I held him in high regard, so I wanted to do him this favor. Thus, I agreed to his request readily. "I'll ask my

assistant to contact her." Charlas' POV:

Scarlatt frownad as sha starad at ma.

Har bright, baautiful ayas bawitchad ma. And it randarad ma unabla to rasist tha urga to laan closa to har

Scarlatt saamad a littla narvous. To my surprisa, sha closad har ayas and packad ma on tha lips.

I was stunnad by har initiativa.

Aftar taking a stap back, sha starad ma with coquattish ayas. "Lat's go back to tha mansion tonight, okay?"

"Sura." I lickad my lips, faaling unsatisfiad.

Than, I lockad my ayas on Scarlatt.

Confusad, sha askad, "What ...?"

Bafora sha could finish spaaking, I hald tha back of har haad, bant ovar, and kissad har. Than, I jammad my tongua into har mouth and gava har a Franch kiss.

Tracy yalpad for a sacond, but sha soon quiatad down and avartad har gaza from us.

Maanwhila, Scarlatt whimparad and rasistad. I ambracad har tightly and kissad har mora passionataly. Saconds latar, sha indulgad harsalf in our kiss. Sha wrappad har arms around my nack and bagan to kiss ma back.

Aftar a long tima, I finally lat go of har. I prassad my forahaad against har and suggastad, "Mayba wa shouldn't go back to tha mansion today."

Scarlatt glarad at ma, blushing. "But I want to go back!"

"Wall, I guass it would still work as long as wa do it quiatly," I said.

"Charlas!" Scarlatt axclaimad.

Saaing that sha was about to gat pissad, I clammad up. But tha smila on my faca didn't disappaar.

Upon our arrival at the Moora mansion, dinnar was already sarvad. We greated the alders and sat baside tham.

Grandpa axhortad Scarlatt. "You shouldn't spand all of your tima working. You should spand mora tima with your child whanavar possibla."

Scarlatt was ladling a bowl of soup for Grandma whan sha haard that. "I will, Grandpa," sha answarad.

Grandpa noddad with satisfaction bafora turning to look at ma. "Charlas, is your company lacking in manpowar? My friand has a granddaughtar namad Nancy Wood. Sha just graduated this month. Do you mind chacking if thara's a suitabla position for har?"

Honastly, my company was navar short on manpowar, but Grandpa raraly avar askad for favors. I hald him in high ragard, so I wantad to do him this favor. Thus, I agraad to his raquast raadily. "I'll ask my assistant to contact har."

After dinner, I wanted to stroll in the garden with Scarlett. However, Grandma took her first.

I had no choice but to follow them around.

Grandma seemed to be in high spirits, and she asked Scarlett to play chess with her.

But after losing several games in a row, Grandma began to act shamelessly. "No, no, no. My eyesight is poor now, so I moved the wrong piece. I'm going to redo my move!"

Scarlett just let Grandma redid her move and just smiled at her. "Grandma, take a good look at the pieces before you make a move this time."

Grandpa shook his head, sighed, and held Grandma's hand. "How could you still be so childish at our age? You're making Scarlett coax you!"

Grandma glared at him and asked, "Am I not allowed to do so?"

"Fine, fine. Do whatever you want." Grandpa immediately conceded and just clammed up beside Grandma.

We spent time together until eleven in the evening.

Seeing that Grandma was getting sleepy, I asked one of the servants to help the elders go upstairs and put them to bed.

"Grandma is so adorable. She's like a child sometimes," Scarlett remarked as she put the chess pieces into the box. Even her eyes were smiling. She looked so beautiful.

Meanwhile, I just gazed at her in silence.

Scarlett looked back at me, visibly confused. Soon, she leaned back, wary of me. "What's the matter

with you?"

I held her hand, pulled her towards me, and sat her on my lap. Then, I placed my arms around her waist, rubbed my cheeks against hers, and said, "It's late. We should go to bed."

"Charles, stop it." Scarlett's face gradually became red.

It was then that I kissed her affectionately.

"I... I'm gonna take a shower!" Blushing, she pushed me away, sprang to her feet, and ran upstairs.

I chuckled as I followed behind her.

Inside the bedroom, Scarlett was taking her pajamas to the bathroom.

But before she could even open the bathroom door, I held her hand and embraced her from behind. "Scarlett," I whispered.

"What... what are you doing?" Scarlett stammered. 'She's so adorable!' I remarked inwardly.

I kissed her earlobe and said, "Let's take a shower together."

Scarlett tensed up and didn't respond.

As I held her in my embrace, it was hard to resist the urge to breathe her presence in. I could feel my Adam's apple bobbing up and down.

Gently, I turned her towards me, so that we would stand face to face. I kissed her lips and asked, "Is it okay?"

Scarlett nodded affirmatively.

I opened the door behind her and entered the bathroom while kissing her.

Scarlett's POV:

After we finished showering, I lay on the bed as though I had lost my very soul.

At this time, my phone vibrated on the bedside table. Upon checking it, I saw that I had received a message from Alice. "Scarlett, am I going to have a granddaughter soon?"

Before I could even respond, Charles lay down beside me and embraced me. I could feel his pecs against my back. Not long after, I heard his bewitching voice. "Tell Mom not to be so hasty. If she wants to have a granddaughter, she'll have to wait a few more years."

I rolled my eyes at him. "You peeped at my messages again."

"I didn't mean to look at it. I saw it by accident," Charles replied while kissing me.

I scoffed at him and saw that another message had popped up. It was from Vivian. "Scarlett, what would you do if your man's mother doesn't like you? Will you leave him or insist on staying by his side?"

I frowned when I read the message. "I'm afraid Gemma is getting involved with Spencer and Vivian's relationship," I said to Charles.

"Just leave them alone," he replied. His response was followed by a slightly cold touch on my waist. He slid his hands into my pajamas and gently caressed my skin.

I held his hand and said, "But..."

Obviously, Charles wasn't in the mood to discuss this matter. Not wanting me to say another word, he kissed me, pulled my hand, and placed it on his chest. I could feel his heart racing.

"Baby, I promise this will be the last time today." Charles was looking at me with a burning desire in his eyes.

My heart seemed to have stopped beating all of a sudden. I couldn't take my eyes off him, and I slowly gave into my desire to have sex with him.

Chapter 268 Do You Really Want To Marry Me

Spencer's POV:

I had been looking for Vivian in the bar for a long time, but I couldn't find her anywhere. With every passing second, I was getting even more upset.

Thus, I pulled one of the waiters and asked, "Have you seen Vivian?"

The waiter shook his head blankly.

"Find her," I commanded. Having said that, I turned around and went to Vivian's room, but there was nobody inside.

Moments later, the waiter rushed into the room and stammered, "Sir, I... I called Vivian."

Impatiently, I asked, "And then? Tell me!"

The waiter was startled by the sudden rise of my voice.

Realizing that I was losing control, I took a deep breath. "Sorry about that."

Given that the waiter was frightened, he hurriedly answered my question. "A man answered Vivian's phone, saying that she was singing."

"Did he say where she is?" I asked.

The waiter said with uncertainty, "He didn't say, but it sounds like she's at a club."

I stared at him with unblinking eyes and stood rooted to my spot.

"Hang on. I'll go check again, sir!" The waiter trembled and ran away.

I was becoming more and more frustrated. To alleviate my frustration, I splashed some cold water onto my face, but it still didn't work.

A few minutes later, the waiter returned. "She's at the Havana Club, sir."

Without wasting another second, I grabbed my car keys and drove there at once.

Soon, I arrived at Havana Club.

The second I entered the door, Vivian appeared in my sight and took my breath away.

There was dim lighting on the stage, and she was practically sparkling beneath the spotlight. It looked like she was immersed in her performance, sweeping her eyes across the audience in a charming way.

I could hear my heart beating like a drum as I looked at her. But when I saw Lee in front of the stage, all the feelings I had in my heart disappeared.

I clicked my tongue, grabbed one of the waiters and said, "Once the lady finishes her performance, take her backstage."

The waiter was startled and he stared at me for a long time. It appeared as though he was trying to figure out who I was.

Not wanting to give him a chance to refuse, I added, "Hurry the fuck up!" Spancar's POV:

I had baan looking for Vivian in tha bar for a long tima, but I couldn't find har anywhara. With avary passing sacond, I was gatting avan mora upsat.

Thus, I pullad ona of tha waitars and askad, "Hava you saan Vivian?"

Tha waitar shook his haad blankly.

"Find har," I commandad. Having said that, I turnad around and want to Vivian's room, but thara was nobody insida.

Momants latar, tha waitar rushad into tha room and stammarad, "Sir, I... I callad Vivian."

Impatiantly, I askad, "And than? Tall ma!"

Tha waitar was startlad by tha suddan risa of my voica.

Raalizing that I was losing control, I took a daap braath. "Sorry about that."

Givan that the waiter was frightened, he hurriadly answered my question. "A man enswered Vivien's phone, saying that she was singing."

"Did ha say whara sha is?" I askad.

Tha waitar said with uncartainty, "Ha didn't say, but it sounds lika sha's at a club."

I starad at him with unblinking ayas and stood rootad to my spot.

"Hang on. I'll go chack again, sir!" Tha waitar tramblad and ran away.

I was bacoming mora and mora frustratad. To allaviata my frustration, I splashad soma cold watar onto my faca, but it still didn't work.

A faw minutas latar, tha waitar raturnad. "Sha's at tha Havana Club, sir."

Without wasting another second, I grabbed my car keys and drove there at once.

Soon, I arrivad at Havana Club.

Tha sacond I antarad tha door, Vivian appaarad in my sight and took my braath away.

Thara was dim lighting on the stage, and she was practically sparkling beneath the spotlight. It looked like she was immersed in her performance, sweeping her eyes across the audience in a charming way.

I could haar my haart baating lika a drum as I lookad at har. But whan I saw Laa in front of tha staga, all tha faalings I had in my haart disappaarad.

I clickad my tongua, grabbad ona of tha waitars and said, "Onca tha lady finishas har parformanca, taka har backstaga."

Tha waitar was startlad and ha starad at ma for a long tima. It appeared as though ha was trying to figure out who I was.

Not wanting to give him a chance to refuse, I added, "Hurry the fuck up!"

"Ah! Yes, sir. Right away!" The waiter seemed to be frightened. He staggered away and rushed to the stage's waiting area.

I shot Lee a cold glance before making a detour to the back of the stage.

A few minutes later, the singing stopped and the lights were turned back on.

Soon, Vivian arrived at the back of the stage.

She seemed surprised to see me here, but she quickly composed herself, and greeted me politely.

I only caught a glimpse of her when I entered the club, so I just now realized that she was wearing a long slim dress and exquisite high-heeled shoes.

Admittedly, Vivian looked enchantingly beautiful, but I was too angry to dwell on that. 'Does she value Lee that much? Why did she dress up this well knowing that she's going out with him? She never even dressed like that for me!' I remarked inwardly.

"Vivian, what are you trying to do?" I asked through gritted teeth.

Confused, Vivian said, "I'm here to sing with my friends for fun. Is there something wrong with that?"

"For fun? Seriously? Is that how you view our relationship?" I growled.

Raising an eyebrow, Vivian strutted towards me. Her every move was enough to charm me. Not a minute later, she stood face to face with me, looking directly into my eyes. "Or what? Are you really going to marry me?"

Now that her face was inches away from mine, I must say that even her makeup was beautiful.

But I got even angrier. "Do you have a crush on the rich young man out there, so you wanna date him?"

Vivian didn't seem fazed by my reaction. "If Lee actually likes me, it'll be my honor to date him," she snorted.

My remaining rationality was almost burned out by my anger. Fortunately, I was able to suppress my anger long enough to leave before I could lose my temper in front of Vivian.

Vivian's POV:

I should be happy that Spencer left, but when I watched him storm away, my heart was filled with sadness.

A few seconds later, I turned around and went back to my original seat, lost in thought. Suddenly, someone grabbed my wrist. I stumbled and fell directly into someone's warm embrace.

"Spencer?" I looked up at him, shocked that he was still here.

"Come with me." Spencer gazed into my eyes and dragged me out.

As I stared at him, I felt the urge to cry.

In all honesty, I was over the moon that he came back for me.

Spencer looked like he was on the brink of losing control. After pulling me into his car, he drove all the way back to his bar at full speed.

I got carsick and felt dizzy because of that. But before I could get a chance to recover, he pulled me out of the car and led me into the bar.

I staggered forward to hold Spencer's arm, and bumped into him on purpose. I pouted at him and said, "Spencer, my heels are too high for me to walk properly. Help me."

Spencer paused for a second and then wrapped his arms around my waist.

The fabric of my dress was thin, so I could feel his palm on my skin. His palm was warmer than most others I had felt.

When our eyes met, it seemed like time had stopped. I couldn't resist the urge to touch his handsome face. Then, I gently stroked his earlobes and pinched it.

Spencer trembled at what I did, and soon, his ears turned red. As he looked at me in astonishment, he grabbed my hand. "What are you doing?"

"I wanted to see how you'll react," I replied. I flashed him a grin, leaned against his chest, and listened to his powerful heartbeat.

But then, I heard Spencer's cold voice. "What reaction did you want me to have? You have a crush on Lee, don't you?"

Just when I was about to answer, I saw a familiar face outside the door.

I left Spencer's embrace and straightened his collar. Seeing that he was glaring at me, I leaned close to

him and whispered, "Nicole is here. You're supposed to go on a date, remember?"

I could see Spencer's eyes burning with fury.

Pretending to be calm, I clenched my fists and tried to cheer him up. Then, before Nicole could reach us, I left right away.

Despite the fact that I was pushing Spencer towards her, I felt only bitterness whenever they were together.

'How long am I going to pretend like I don't like him?' I felt like I was on the verge of breaking down.

## **Chapter 269 Resignation**

Spencer's POV:

Nicole had brought along with her large group of young lady friends to Mint Bar.

Vivian, being the heartless woman she was, left me in Nicole's mercy and strode upstairs without a word. But just before she disappeared at the end of the staircase, she flashed me an encouraging look that roused my fury.

"I'm sorry, Spencer. Do forgive me for coming over without telling you in advance. These are my friends. All of them wanted to see you, so..."

She trailed away, gazing at me with quiet enthusiasm and blushing red. Her voice grew lower and lower as she spoke, and she sounded like a timid little rabbit.

Why was she here again?! This had gone far enough!

I pulled my lips into a frown, giving off the impression that no one was allowed to come close to me.

Sadly, these girls were too young to be sensible. They didn't sense my displeasure and surrounded me instantly. They kept asking me questions over and over in their high-pitched voices, like a bunch of nosy flies.

"Spencer, so you're Nicole's boyfriend?"

"How did you know Nicole, Spencer? Do tell us!"

"Spencer..."

One by one, they shot foolish questions that gave me goosebumps. I tried to push down my annoyance and keep calm throughout it all. Unfortunately, I couldn't get rid of them at all.

In fact, my mind was full of Vivian and Lee. I wasn't in the mood to deal with these giggly little girls.

"I'm sorry, but I need to go to the washroom."

I found an excuse to leave. Once I managed to escape the crowd of annoying girls, I whipped out my phone and sent a message to Vivian.

"I'll come to you later. If you don't explain what happened before, I'm not letting you sleep tonight!"

I waited in the washroom for her reply, but nothing came. Vivian was silent.

Damn it! I would definitely punish her later!

Reluctantly, I returned to Nicole and her friends. Immediately, the girls from before pounced on me and continued their barrage of stupid questions. So much, I was drowning in them! Being around the girls was a test of my patience.

Suddenly, I spotted Lee in the crowd from the corner of my eyes.

Looking closely, he was holding a lady's bag in his hand. My eyes automatically zeroed in on Lee's figure, and I realized that he was walking to Vivian's room.

What day was it today? A gathering day for blind dates?! Argh!

Then, the door was opened and Vivian popped out. She greeted Lee with a sweet smile before pulling him inside and closing the door shut.

Just like that, the last vestiges of my reasoning vanished. Anger surged in me, prompting me to stand up abruptly. I said to the girls, "Excuse me. I have something urgent to deal with." As soon as I said that, I turned around, about to leave.

"Spencer? Where are you going?" Spancar's POV:

Nicola had brought along with har larga group of young lady friands to Mint Bar.

Vivian, baing the heartlass woman sha was, laft ma in Nicola's marcy and stroda upstairs without a word. But just before she disappeared at the and of the staircese, she flashed me an ancouraging look that roused my fury.

"I'm sorry, Spancar. Do forgiva ma for coming ovar without talling you in advanca. Thasa ara my friands. All of tham wantad to saa you, so..."

Sha trailad away, gazing at ma with quiat anthusiasm and blushing rad. Har voica graw lowar and lowar

as sha spoka, and sha soundad lika a timid littla rabbit.

Why was sha hara again?! This had gona far anough!

I pullad my lips into a frown, giving off tha imprassion that no ona was allowad to coma closa to ma.

Sadly, thasa girls wara too young to ba sansibla. Thay didn't sansa my displaasura and surroundad ma instantly. Thay kapt asking ma quastions ovar and ovar in thair high-pitchad voicas, lika a bunch of nosy flias.

"Spancar, so you'ra Nicola's boyfriand?"

"How did you know Nicola, Spancar? Do tall us!"

"Spancar..."

Ona by ona, thay shot foolish quastions that gava ma goosabumps. I triad to push down my annoyanca and kaap calm throughout it all. Unfortunataly, I couldn't gat rid of tham at all.

In fact, my mind was full of Vivian and Laa. I wasn't in tha mood to daal with thasa giggly littla girls.

"I'm sorry, but I naad to go to tha washroom."

I found an axcusa to laava. Onca I managad to ascapa tha crowd of annoying girls, I whippad out my phona and sant a massaga to Vivian.

"I'll coma to you latar. If you don't axplain what happanad bafora, I'm not latting you slaap tonight!"

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Looking closaly, ha was holding a lady's bag in his hand. My ayas automatically zaroad in on Laa's figura, and I raalizad that ha was walking to Vivian's room.

What day was it today? A gatharing day for blind datas?! Argh!

Than, tha door was opanad and Vivian poppad out. Sha graatad Laa with a swaat smila bafora pulling

him insida and closing tha door shut.

Just lika that, tha last vastigas of my raasoning vanishad. Angar surgad in ma, prompting ma to stand up abruptly. I said to tha girls, "Excusa ma. I hava somathing urgant to daal with." As soon as I said that, I turnad around, about to laava.

"Spancar? Whara ara you going?"

Nicole wanted to stop me from leaving. However, I turned around and threw her an icy glare. I could no longer suppress my anger and hissed, "Nicole, you crossed the line."

My curt warning frightened her into tears. She stood still, frozen on the spot, her eyes brimming with tears that threatened to fall.

Everyone fell dead silent. Under the surprised and shocked looks of everyone inside, I hurried out of the room.

As I stormed upstairs, the image of Vivian and Lee embracing intimately appeared in my mind. My heart ached, as if it was being torn to pieces.

Were they doing the deed?

With that in mind, I increased my pace and sprinted to Vivian's room. I kicked the door open immediately.

"Vivian! You...!"

My furious outburst came to a sudden halt. To my surprise, Lee was nowhere to be found. In fact, there was only an alluring beauty in lingerie.

Maybe Vivian had just taken a shower. She wore a skimpy silk nightdress that showed her generous cleavage. It was so short, it couldn't cover her snow-white, slender legs. She looked charmingly lazy, tempting men into approaching her.

Seeing her in such a state, the question I yearned to ask got stuck in my throat. I couldn't take my eyes off Vivian.

"What's wrong, Spencer?" Vivian approached me step by step and looked at me with a teasing gaze.

"If you're here to catch the adultery in the act, I'm afraid I've let you down. Lee just came to give me the bag I left in the club and left right after. Why are you so flustered?"

I kept stepping back, breathing hard, until the door touched my back.

This woman was just like a mind reader! She could see through my thoughts so easily.

Then, Vivian burst into amused laughter. She retreated away from me and sat back on the edge of the bed. She leaned against the head of the bed, bending her body into a seductive gesture.

She patted the bed and said, "Come and sit here, Spencer."

What was she up to...? I swallowed hard, not daring to move.

"What? Are you afraid of me?" Her eyes flashed with contempt and teasing.

I wasn't afraid of anything!

Thinking so, I braced myself and quickly sat down next to Vivian.

I sat still, but I still didn't have the courage to look at her. I was afraid that I would be seduced by this tempting woman again.

"You know, Spencer, how about I resign?" Vivian asked softly, popping out an unexpected question.

As if struck by lightning, I sprang up from the bed in shock. "That's not funny, Vivian!"

"Well, you won't be angry anymore if I leave,"

Vivian said casually, but she was looking at me with a sincere gaze.

Only then did I realize that Vivian was dead serious. She really wanted to leave me!

All of a sudden, unprecedented panic engulfed my entire being. Even if she angered me to death every day, I never actually wanted to let her go.

I was so anxious, my palms began to sweat and my mind turned into a mess. Before I could say anything, a pair of soft red lips caught mine in a deep kiss.

Before I could react, I fell on the soft bed. Vivian pressed on top of me and whispered softly, "This is the last time, Spencer."

As I looked at her beautiful face, a surge of mad desire flooded in me.

The fire of lust burned us whole as we embraced...

Vivian's POV:

After a long bout of desire, I was exhausted. I turned to Spencer disgruntledly and kicked his butt. "You

can go back to your room now."

But Spencer pulled me into his arms instead, and wrapped his arms and legs around me like a clingy little octopus. He murmured childishly, "No, I won't go."

I could feel the warmth in his chest radiating into me. Turbulent emotions stirred my heart, and I wasn't sure what to feel.

A few seconds ago, I was wondering about how to stay away from this man. But in the next second, as he held me dearly in his arms, my heart started beating at a rapid pace.

Try as I might, I really couldn't do anything about it!

I sighed silently in my heart, the irritation my heart left with nowhere to go. "Spencer, I can't fall asleep. Let's talk."

"It's already so late. You should sleep now." Spencer's voice was slightly muffled from unspoken desire.

"No. I want to talk." I struggled in his embrace, discontent.

"Okay, okay. Whatever you want." Helpless, Spencer released me from his hug.

"Alright. What do you want to talk about?"

"I've arranged for so many blind dates for you. Don't you have feelings for any of the girls?"

"No." Spencer's reply was immediate. He glared at me, displeased.

"Fine, then tell me what kind of girl you like." I nestled coyly in his arms, acting like a spoiled child.

Spencer played with my long hair and replied indifferently, "You already know."

An amusing thought popped in my mind. I asked tentatively, "Is it someone like Scarlett?"

Spencer instantly stopped playing with my hair and frowned. "Why do you ask so many questions?" He sounded very flustered.

All of a sudden, my heart sank to my stomach. I looked up at him, and saw that he was also looking at me. We looked at each other silently for about a minute, not uttering a single word.

Finally, Spencer gave in. "Why are you thinking so much? Come on, let's do it again."

Spencer kissed me passionately, his big hands touching me everywhere. Since we had just done it, I couldn't resist his temptation. Soon, I fell into the vortex of desire again.

He was completely right. Why should I think so much? After all, we were just having fun while we could.

## **Chapter 270 Played Tricks**

Vivian's POV:

When I woke up, Spencer was already gone. 'When did Spencer leave?" I wondered.

Gemma called me and urged me to continue finding girls for her son.

Thus, I had no choice but to call Spencer.

"Boss, where are you?" I asked.

"What's up?"

"Oh, it's not that big of a deal. But you'll have to come back and meet your date today."

"Did my mother call you again?" Spencer asked sharply.

I didn't respond to that, and I just rolled my eyes at him. He already knew the answer, and yet he was still asking me.

"I'm not going on a blind date," he said.

"No, you can't refuse, Spencer! Otherwise I have no idea how I'm going to explain it to your mother," I said.

"Ugh... fine. Ask Nicole to wait for me in the bar tonight," he responded.

After hanging up, I felt the bitterness overcome my heart.

Clearly, Gemma didn't like me. But I couldn't figure out what Spencer really wanted.

Disappointed, I let out an exasperated sigh.

'Forget it! Even if I don't have a boyfriend, I still have my bestie!'

After a moment of pondering, I decided to go look for Scarlett. 'God, I'm so sick of men!' I cursed inwardly.

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Upon arriving at the cafe, I saw that Scarlett and Nina were already there waiting for me. It turned out that they'd been waiting for me for a long time.

At a glance, I saw James lying in his stroller and sucking on his thumb.

I hadn't seen him for a long time, but he still remembered who I was. He reached out his stubby little arms to me, smiling like an angel.

'Aww! James is so adorable!' My heart melted at the sight of him.

I couldn't wait to hold him. "Come here, my little angel. Let me hug you!"

The little guy had become a lot heavier than the last time I held him. He leaned his chubby little face towards me and planted a kiss on my cheek.

"Aww. You're so sweet!"

James' innocent eyes and unadulterated positivity cheered me up. To show him just how much I adored him, I embraced him in my arms.

After a while, a waiter came over with a tray. "Sorry to bother you, ladies. I'm just here to serve you your coffees and orange juice. Please, enjoy yourselves."

"Thank you," said Nina.

She took the two cups of coffee and put them in front of me and Scarlett, and then she picked up the glass of orange juice and took a sip.

I was surprised that Nina wasn't drinking a latte. The ones they served at this cafe was quite famous in town, so I wondered why she opted for an orange juice instead.

"Nina, why aren't you drinking coffee?" I asked.

Suddenly, Nina blushed. "It's not a big deal. Abner and I have been planning to have a child, so we've stopped drinking coffee altogether," she stammered.

As she held the orange juice in her hands, her eyes were brimming with joy.

'A child, huh?' I didn't expect that she and Abner would try to have a child so soon.

"In that case, congratulations!" I greeted.

"Thanks, Vivian." Nina smiled meekly at me.

Vivian's POV:

Whan I woka up, Spancar was alraady gona. 'Whan did Spancar laava?" I wondarad.

Gamma callad ma and urgad ma to continua finding girls for har son.

Thus, I had no choica but to call Spancar.

"Boss, whara ara you?" I askad.

"What's up?"

"Oh, it's not that big of a daal. But you'll hava to coma back and maat your data today."

"Did my mothar call you again?" Spancar askad sharply.

I didn't raspond to that, and I just rollad my ayas at him. Ha alraady knaw tha answar, and yat ha was still asking ma.

"I'm not going on a blind data," ha said.

"No, you can't rafusa, Spancar! Otharwisa I hava no idaa how I'm going to axplain it to your mothar," I said.

"Ugh... fina. Ask Nicola to wait for ma in tha bar tonight," ha raspondad.

Aftar hanging up, I falt tha bittarnass ovarcoma my haart.

Claarly, Gamma didn't lika ma. But I couldn't figura out what Spancar raally wantad.

Disappointad, I lat out an axasparatad sigh.

'Forgat it! Evan if I don't hava a boyfriand, I still hava my bastia!'

Aftar a momant of pondaring, I dacidad to go look for Scarlatt. 'God, I'm so sick of man!' I cursad inwardly.

\*\*\*\*\*

Upon arriving at the cafa, I saw that Scarlatt and Nina ware already there waiting for ma. It turned out that they'd been waiting for ma for a long time.

At a glanca, I saw Jamas lying in his strollar and sucking on his thumb.

I hadn't saan him for a long tima, but ha still ramambarad who I was. Ha raachad out his stubby littla

arms to ma, smiling lika an angal.

'Aww! Jamas is so adorabla!' My haart maltad at tha sight of him.

I couldn't wait to hold him. "Coma hara, my littla angal. Lat ma hug you!"

Tha littla guy had bacoma a lot haaviar than tha last tima I hald him. Ha laanad his chubby littla faca towards ma and plantad a kiss on my chaak.

"Aww. You'ra so swaat!"

Jamas' innocant ayas and unadultaratad positivity chaarad ma up. To show him just how much I adorad him, I ambracad him in my arms.

Aftar a whila, a waitar cama ovar with a tray. "Sorry to bothar you, ladias. I'm just hara to sarva you your coffaas and oranga juica. Plaasa, anjoy yoursalvas."

"Thank you," said Nina.

Sha took tha two cups of coffaa and put tham in front of ma and Scarlatt, and than sha pickad up tha glass of oranga juica and took a sip.

I was surprised that Nina wasn't drinking a latta. The ones they sarved at this cafe was quite famous in town, so I wondared why she opted for an orange juica instead.

"Nina, why aran't you drinking coffaa?" I askad.

Suddanly, Nina blushad. "It's not a big daal. Abnar and I hava baan planning to hava a child, so wa'va stoppad drinking coffaa altogathar," sha stammarad.

As sha hald tha oranga juica in har hands, har ayas wara brimming with joy.

'A child, huh?' I didn't axpact that sha and Abnar would try to hava a child so soon.

"In that casa, congratulations!" I graatad.

"Thanks, Vivian." Nina smilad maakly at ma.

Love was so magical. Nina used to be so perky and forthright, but now she looked so different.

'A baby...'

I put James back into the stroller, and then picked up my cup of coffee in a daze.

Suddenly, it occurred to me that I didn't use any contraception when I had sex with Spencer.

With hope in my heart, I put down my cup and gently stroked my flat stomach. 'Perhaps a seed has taken root and is growing inside my womb,' I thought.

Before I had time to think any further, Gemma's face flashed through my mind.

And as I cringed at her image, all the beautiful scenes in my head disappeared in an instant.

A bitter smile appeared on my lips. 'Even if I have a child with Spencer, what good would it do? Will it change where I came from? Will Gemma start to accept me because of the child?'

When those thoughts crossed my mind, I figured it was best to give up on the idea.

Once more, I picked up the cup of coffee. The strong bitterness of the coffee seemed to have seeped into my very limbs and bones.

'Ugh, the coffee tastes so bitter. I'll never come back here again.'

It was a pity that my well-deserved relaxation time was ruined by an unexpected guest.

Somewhere nearby, Emily was walking towards us along with her new bodyguard.

"Why is she always haunting you like a ghost? I wonder if she's got some sort of tracking device installed on you. It's like she knows where you are wherever you go!" Nina sounded annoyed.

"What are you doing here?" I asked bluntly.

The fake smile on Emily's face froze. "I've grown tired of shopping, so I figured it would be nice to sit down and relax. Can't I have a cup of coffee and say hello to my daughter?"

"God, stop reminding me that you're my mother. You should know by now that I'd rather not talk to you even if we meet," I responded.

Knowing that I didn't buy her explanation, Emily cut the crap. "Vivian, you're just deceiving yourself. Whether you like it or not, I am your mother and we share the same blood. There's nothing you can do about that."

Trembling with anger, I clenched my fists and asked, "What the hell do you want this time?"

"I wish to speak to you alone," said Emily, sounding determined. Moreover, her bodyguard was standing right in front of me, silent yet daunting.

"Vivian..." Scarlett stopped midsentence. At the same time, she signaled for Tracy and Janet to come

over. It was fortunate that they were nearby and following Scarlett around.

"It seems like talking to you today is unavoidable."

I gave Scarlett a reassuring glance, while finishing the last bits of my coffee. "Fine, let's go," I said to Emily.

Unhurriedly, I stood up and walked to the corner of the shopping mall along with Emily.

"Vivian, have you thought about marrying Ethan?" she asked bluntly.

I knew that she was still thinking of selling me to that bastard, so I didn't hesitate to refuse her suggestion. "Fuck that. I'm not going to marry that freak, Ethan."

"Well, if you're not going to marry him, who will you marry? Spencer? Bah! He's way out of your league!" Emily growled.

"That is none of your business!" I clapped back. All of the hair on my body stood on end because of how angry I was.

"I am your mother. Do you really think that I can't see through you? You went to see Ethan on purpose, didn't you? And you did it because you wanted to infuriate Spencer. Well, now that you've got what you want, you're just going to discard me?"

Emily sneered. "You really are my daughter! You're incredibly talented at seducing men!"

"Shut the fuck up!"

The darkest part of my heart was revealed. It was as if I had been stripped naked and cut open, revealing the rotten flesh inside.

Though it pained me to admit it, she was right.

I did use Ethan to annoy Spencer, just so he could realize how important I was to him. I almost lost my virginity in that tragic incident.

The heavy makeup on Emily's face wasn't enough to disguise her intentions of scheming. Upon seeing her reaction, I suddenly remembered what Gemma told me.

"Like mother, like daughter," she said.

I felt sick to my core and began retching. 'Was she right?' I wondered. Perhaps there might not be any differences between me and my deviant mother. It made me wonder if I would become so despicable someday.

"Now that you have a new goal, as your mother, I do hope you get what you want," said Emily with a sneer.

To my eyes, her blessing was more like a curse, and it filled me with even deeper fear.

Dazed and confused, I went back to my seat. Abner had already picked up Nina, and only Scarlett was there, anxiously waiting for me.

"Scarlett, do you think I'll be happy if I use a trick to win him over?"

I blurted out the question that had been troubling me for the longest time. "Never mind. I don't wanna know the answer."

Truthfully, I was worried that I'd get a negative answer from Scarlett.

"Vivian, love at first sight isn't a thing. If a man can pursue a woman, it gives us, women, every right to pursue our happiness too. It's not a trick. When it comes to love, it's hard to distinguish between right and wrong. If you're in love with each other, I'm sure it will be fine. We shouldn't deny someone's feelings just because of a 'trick'."

Scarlett's words were like a beacon of hope shining down on me. It was then that I poured my heart out and told her everything.

I told her just how much I loved Spencer, how his mother, Gemma disliked me, and that my mother was only interested in earning money.

All the while, Scarlett listened intently to my ramblings, quietly holding my hand.

"Vivian, love isn't that complicated. As long as you and Spencer love each other, everything will be fine," she said.

"You don't understand, Scarlett. That's the problem. I don't even know if Spencer loves me back." I smiled bitterly.

This time, Scarlett didn't say anything and silence ensued between us.