

## Chapter 11 | underestimated you, Vanessa!

Austin Jones sat on the president's chair with his legs crossed, his hands drumming on the table while his gaze focused on the presentation, and the department heads were eager to satisfy him to get their perks.

When he was deep in thoughts, a phone rang, making the people in the conference hall wipe their sweat since they all know Austin would never allow anyone to interrupt a meeting.

Their heads turned around to see who was the unlucky fellow, but it again beeped, but from none other than Austin Jones himself!

Seeing that, they all relaxed, but a frown was settled on Austin's handsome face because he wouldn't receive any calls in 'do not disturb' mode unless they called repetitively, and no one in his sane mind would call him like crazy unless something happened!

With that, he grabbed his mobile from his pocket and eyed numerous missed calls from all of his close friends.

He grasped that something must be wrong and decided to call them when a message popped up on his screen from David Harrison, his best friend, with the message, "watch them asap!"

Without thinking much, he opened it, but after eyeing the titles of the video and the links, his face turned gloomy!

Nonetheless, he decided to watch the contents of it with his volume turned down, and when he realized what actually happened on that night, he clenched his fists so hard that his knuckles turned white while the coldness emanating from his eyes sent daggers as if he would be on a killing spree really soon!

He was rooted on the chair, motionless, too stunned to even react, but the rage burning in his veins was increasing as his sharp jaw clenched.

While the members in the conference hall held their breaths, not knowing what happened, yet too scared to even do anything that would piss their president off because they didn't want to suffer from the wrath of their president.

Without giving a glance, he uttered, "dismiss," and they almost ran out of the hall to save their dear lives!

Seeing the hall had become empty, he held his mobile in a tight grip and gone through each of the links, and by then, his face was livid!

Almost an hour later, all the posts on Vanessa's social media account were deleted except the one with a written apology, "I'm sorry. I was wrong!"

Seeing that, Austin's veins popped out and his eyes turned blood red because Vanessa apologized in front of the whole world with a text message, but wasn't it ironic after the things she had revealed?

Theo, who stood aside waiting to receive any order from Austin was frightened and lowered his head, too scared to even take a glance at Austin.

The oppressive aura from Austin was so strong and intense that Theo felt it was hard to even breathe, because he wanted to just disappear in the thin air unscathed without making any noise, or else he didn't know how Austin would deal with him when he was already utterly pissed off!

His black pools had turned pitch black, ready to swallow anything and everything in his way and would push them into an abyss with no return!

"You have half an hour! I don't want the slightest trace of this news to be present!" Austin commanded in his deep gruff tone when Theo shivered.

With a gulp, he raised his trembling eyelashes and added, "Mr. Jones, it's not possible."

Hearing the blatant rejection, Austin's onyx pools turned so cold that would freeze anyone to death! With a scrutinizing glare, he asked, "what do you mean by 'not possible'?"

Theo licked his lips and decided to bite the bullet, gathered his courage, and muttered, "after I got to know about the news, I immediately directed our Public Relations team to handle it."

With a slight pause, he continued, "But the director of the Public Relations team reported to me that... this was specially handled by Mr. Watson from the Shine Entertainment Corp... and we couldn't be able to do anything."

Hearing it, Austin's lips were pressed into a thin line as a menacing glint

danced in his eyes, "wow, Vanessa. I underestimated you!"

If looks could kill, Vanessa would be buried under six feet by now!

He fiddled with his phone and finally decided to give Vanessa a call, but before he dialed her, a call from the Old Master Jones appeared on the screen, making him even gloomier.

With a sigh, he mumbled, "grandfather."

When Master Jones got to know about the explosive scandal of the Jones family, he was beyond furious and was determined to see the end of the person responsible for it.

With that, he dialed Austin while he was trembling in anger.

The moment Master Jones heard his voice, he almost roared in the phone, making Austin remove his mobile from his ear with a frown.

"Who released the news on Internet? Was it Vanessa?"

Austin gave a low hum when Master Jones grumbled, "Make her delete them, right now. How dare she to do this?"

Listening to that, Austin remained silent when Master Jones added, "Bring her to the Jones mansion ASAP! I want to see that bitch and teach her a lesson."

Austin sighed, "alright. I'll handle it, grandfather."

With that said, he didn't give any chance for the Old Man to retort and dialed Vanessa.

But what he heard had made his body turn cold, "The number you have dialed is out of service! Check the number and try again later."

Seeing the scandal of the Jones family's second son with his sister-in-law going viral, and was shared and commented by millions made Master Jones's blood boil in fury.

To top it off, Vanessa was responsible for it. How can he digest the fact and tolerate it?

Master Jones was so angry that he almost coughed blood with his rising blood pressure!

But Austin couldn't find Vanessa in the city, no matter what methods he had used, which made him even more uncomfortable.

Since he had no choice, he decided to go to the Jones mansion alone and console his grandfather.

The moment he stepped his foot into the living hall, Master Jones asked with gritted teeth, "where is that bitch Vanessa?"

Austin didn't answer when he continued, "Is she in hiding after she caused such a disgrace?"

Hearing that, Austin was getting a headache, and he muttered, "We were already divorced, grandfather."

Master Jones sneered in disgust, "divorced? Who cares whether you divorced her or not!"

"The only thing I need from that wench Vanessa is to make her release a statement to the public that the news was fake!"

Austin squinted with his fists clenched, "Okay. I'll handle it."

Before he left, he uttered, "Take care, grandfather."

With that said, Austin glanced at the members of the Jones family and without speaking another word, he spun around and jumped into his car.

"Take me to the hospital," Austin said while massaging his temples with his eyes closed.

The driver understood immediately and roared the accelerator since he knew whom Austin was referring to! It's none other than Isabella!

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On the other side of the hospital, seeing such shocking news, Isabella was beyond stunned.

Never in her dreams did he expect the calm and timid Vanessa to do such a thing and revolt against her.

For a while, she couldn't believe her own eyes and ears, "very great, Vanessa. " She clapped while muttering under her breath, "You have successfully plotted behind my back."

A determination flashed in her eyes, and she shook her head, "I should drive Vanessa out of the Jones family as soon as possible!"

The slyness in her eyes was no longer masked, "She even dared to release the news to the public, then I should only drag her down with

me!"

"I would happily die than to allow you to have Austin!"

As she was in her thoughts, she heard the door of the ward was abruptly pushed open with a thud.

Her sinister eyes landed on Austin's cold frame. Without wasting another second, he queried, his tone detached from any emotion, "Is that true?"

Eyeing the overpowering aura emanating from Austin, Isabella shivered in her tracks, and she felt as if her heart was crushed!

She eyed him and called his name slowly, "Austin."

Seeing his stiffed silhouette, she grabbed his hand and pulled him to her, "Austin. That wasn't true! Vanessa framed me!"

Even when everything was out in the open, she tried to argue, which made Austin's eyes turn ten shades darker, and veins started showing on his forehead.

Without sparing another glance at her, he added sternly, "you should leave the city."

Hearing that, tears swelled in her eyes when he mercilessly continued, "I will arrange someone to take you abroad tomorrow."

"No, Austin." Isabella shrieked and tried to grab his hand tighter but he pushed her away.

"Austin, please listen to me. I don't want to live in abroad." She pleaded but they fell in dead ears.

"Austin, I have always loved you. You know that, don't you? Don't do this to me, Austin." She pitifully cried but he gave a disgusting glance at her which shattered her heart.

Isabella knew she couldn't afford to leave the Jones family since she would become a nobody by then, but the indifferent man in front of her didn't pay heed to her and left her alone without turning back!

## Chapter 12 Meeting her again!

It's been five days since the scandal of the Jones family's second son having a forbidden love affair with his sister-in-law had become a trending search in the city.

Austin Jones had tried every means possible to shut the media and delete the news without a trace, but it had become impossible even with the amount of power they possessed.

To top it off, the people who once looked down on Vanessa and mocked her for marrying the second son of the Jones family because he was rich had pitied her for her miserable marriage.

Frustrated with the result, Master Jones had ordered Austin to get Vanessa and present her before him even if he had to search the entire world.

With that, Austin and Theo had utilized all the resources, but couldn't find any trace of Vanessa after she moved from New York as if she had disappeared into thin air after she divorced him!

Her social media accounts weren't even active in these past days, and the only post that was present on her account was the ironic apology and an image of their divorce certificate.

But Austin was slightly relieved since there were no new posts, or else he would go berserk, not knowing how to get the situation under control!

Since Austin, Isabella, and Vanessa's relationship was one of the major hot searches in the past week, the popularity of Vanessa had risen to its peaks, and she got a lot of followers, and the count even crossed a couple million in just three days making her an instant internet celebrity!

But there wasn't a single person who had heard of Vanessa after that incident as if she didn't exist at all!

Her sim card was out of service, and her bank account was closed. All her debit and credit cards were blocked. The little financial assets she had possessed previously also disappeared!

Austin even tried to find her based on her last flight ticket, which was

booked to Los Angeles on October 10th.

Theo even fled to Los Angeles immediately to meet her, but there weren't any clues about her.

He knew Vanessa's flight landed successfully in LA, but Vanessa's arrival wasn't even recorded in the airport's cc footage! Not even a single clue was present as if her presence was wiped off from the earth itself!

He had no idea where she had gone nor how was she doing!

As Theo reported the same to Austin, his facial features turned so cold that Theo had felt a chill run down his spine.

Eyeing at the trembling Theo with his head bent down, Austin sneered, "what rubbish are you saying?"

"How can Vanessa just vanish as if she never existed? For heaven's sake, she was my wife for three years!" Austin couldn't control it anymore and lost his temper.

As words left his mouth, as if something struck his mind, he muttered under his breath, "back then she just appeared out of nowhere, and now she had disappeared the same way!"

Hearing his words, Theo quickly agreed to it and mumbled wiping the sweat on his forehead, "you were correct, Mr. Jones. Her existence was a mystery!"

Austin's chest tightened as he grasped the reality of their situation. He felt immense pain in his heart as if it was cut by a sharp knife again and again and there was nothing he could do!

His body shook in fury, and he smashed the vase beside him in rage and a loud grin escaped his lips as if he had become crazy in anger, "very good, Vanessa!"

"From now on, I would take you as a dead woman!" Austin muttered in a menacing tone making Theo snap his head at him in surprise, but didn't utter a word!

Eyeing the bewildered Theo, he scowled, "get out!"

Listening to his roar, Theo gave a nod and almost ran out as if his legs had their own mind and shut the door carefully, leaving the infuriated and lonely Austin behind.

Austin grabbed a cigarette and strode to the sprawling glass window, deep in thoughts. He took quick puffs until the pack was almost emptied and threw it aside while raking his fingers into his messy hair.

He had dark circles under his eyes and his face was a bit pale as if he hadn't had a good night's sleep in the past days.

With a deep inhale, he shook his head and settled back on his chair while his gaze roamed across the gifts Vanessa had sent him when they were married.

He clenched his fists, and his jaw turned so sharp while his eyes turned frosty. Without wasting another second, he broke them and threw all of them into a dustbin.

"Well done, Austin!" He muttered under his breath while sarcasm danced in his tone as his eyes had hidden pain while he appeared as if he had lost some weight!

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Five months later

At New York City's Carlton Hotel.

Vanessa was coming into the banquet hall with her head held high, shoulders squared, and the clicking sound of her heels could be only heard on the red carpet, followed by her secretary Caroline Quill.

The moment she stepped her foot into the decorated hall with lots of people already seated in their places, she heard someone mentioning Mr. Jones faintly and frowned.

She knew there weren't many Jones families that could be called in such a respectable way in the city, and the corners of her eyes involuntarily searched to find the source of the man named Mr. Jones.

As if her guess was correct, her eyes landed on the one man she never wanted to see again! Her Ex-Husband, Austin Jones!

What an unexpected surprise she had received?

Noah Cole, the organizer of the event, almost instantly stood up and moved in hurried steps and greeted Austin, "Mr. Jones, you were finally here!"

With that, he turned around and pointed his hands to the other side of the hall and said, "meet Miss Grant of the Grant Corporation."



When she heard her name, she was alarmed and her brows furrowed but stood up calmly and walk towards them in elegant steps.

Eyed them with a slight smile on her lips, although she saw Austin's cold eyes boring at her, she said nonchalantly, "Nice meeting you, Mr.Jones. You were quite a famous one!"

Austin gazed at Vanessa in a daze, although he appeared extremely cold on the outside, his heart sped up in happiness when he saw her all safe and sound.

He scrutinized her with his piercing eyes and noticed the changes in Vanessa, and for once, he even felt as if she was not the Vanessa he had known!

He tried to clear his thoughts, but her charming looks and her confident aura weren't leaving his mind.

His eyes focused on her silky bronze waves, and the way those luscious locks swayed behind her back when she moved ever so slightly, had kept him hooked, and his throat bobbed.

He also noticed her accentuating makeup, while her watery eyes were bright, and she put on the hazel lens, which gave her even more attraction, but he missed her lustrous brown orbs.

Damn! He wanted to curse himself for even the thought of missing those amber pools!

Her maroon dress hugged her hourglass figure, highlighting her sensual curves, while the faint smile hadn't left her face for once.

Her velvety voice was firm yet polite, and she portrayed her intentions well as if they were indeed strangers, which led to anger coursing through his veins.

Seeing her like that, he felt only one thing! That is, she was leading a good life after divorcing him!

As realization dawned on him, his features darkened, and suddenly the aura emanating from his had turned chilly. He eyed Vanessa's extended hand, waiting for him to shake, but he was in no mood to entertain her!

With that, he didn't want to give her any face and sat down as if she wasn't worthy of his handshake!

Understanding the blatant disrespect he had shown, her smile faded,

and she immediately let her hand down while licking her plump lips as suddenly she felt her mouth was dried up.

Sensing the unusual tension between Austin and Vanessa, Noah was bewildered but tried his best to cover up the awkwardness by changing the topic.

In the next minute, Vanessa get a grip on herself and gave her usual charming smile as if Austin's behavior hadn't affected her even in the slightest and didn't spare him another glance the whole time!

Noah chatted happily with Vanessa and occasionally tried to bring Austin into the conversation, but Austin was like an aloof man and glared coldly at Vanessa as if she had owed him billions!


Observing the tense atmosphere between Austin and Vanessa, Noah decided to end the dinner as quickly as he could since he couldn't afford to offend either of them!

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Chapter Comments

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