

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

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The observant netizens soon figured out the mysterious woman's identity. It turned out she was one of the Wynters from D City. The Wynters was affiliated with the Smallwoods. The ones affiliated with both families were none other than Kayla and her daughter, Shermaine. Shermaine was a renowned celebrity who had been thrown behind bars for attempted murder. The person she had been going after was none other than the talk of the town—Clarissa.

Oh, God! What a surprise! It turns out they're related to one another one way or another! This is even more epic than the year's blockbuster movie! Why has this mysterious woman made up her mind to defend her niece's foe? Has Clarissa always been such an amiable woman? Is something wrong with Mrs. Wynter?"

Some of the netizens found out about how the Wynters had picked on Tyson Corporation after Matthew turned down Shermaine's proposal. I'm confused by the things going on! Has something occurred within the past few years? Why has Mrs. Wynter changed her mind and started siding with their foes?

The netizens couldn't wait to figure out the things going on behind the scenes amongst those from the upper echelon. The topic had taken the internet by storm—all sorts of conspiracy theories could be found. Nonetheless, most of the netizens found the theories unreliable.

As they couldn't get their hands on any useful intel, they had no choice but to wait. They had a hunch it would soon blow up and take everyone by surprise.

Once again, Hilary's effort was to no avail. To her surprise, the mysterious woman who had shown up out of nowhere was Shermaine's aunt. Initially, she was clueless about Sandra's identity. However, when the netizens shared their findings with others on the internet, she had a bad feeling about it.

Why is Mrs. Wynter trying to defend Clarissa? She's Shermaine's aunt! Isn't she supposed to pick on Clarissa and defend Shermaine instead? Hilary was utterly confused as she couldn't figure out the sort of relationship Sandra and Clarissa had. It was then she received another call from Shermaine

Shermaine didn't bother to hold back with her words and took her anger out on Hilary.

"Have you lost your mind? What are you trying to do? Can you stop making a clown out of yourself? Will you ever stop making rash decisions?"

Hilary was taken aback by Shermaine's response as the young woman was no longer the same.

The last time Hilary dropped by the prison to visit Shermaine, the latter had a calm and collected front as if she couldn't be bothered by anything.

That was precisely the reason Hilary thought Shermaine had learned her lesson after spending such a long time behind bars.

To her surprise, those were nothing more than an act.

Shermaine's response had indicated she was aware of something important.

Hilary asked, "S-Shermaine, have you figured out—"

"What am I supposed to have figured out? Hilary, you're the only fool who thinks you're able to keep everyone else in the dark! Do you really think Clarissa won't retaliate against you? Do you think you get to take advantage of her just because you're her mother?"

"I-I—I'm her mother!"

“How are you going to convince others when you can’t even convince yourself! Clarissa won’t even bother to waste her time with you!”
“H-Have you guys figured it out? I-It’s impossible! It’s fine if you’re aware of the truth, but she can’t have figured out too! N-No way!”
Shermaine sneered and ridiculed Hilary on the other end as she finally regained composure after taking things out on her. She couldn’t stop making fun of the helpless woman who had been expressing her disbelief over and over again. Hilary thought Clarissa would never figure out the secret she had intended to take with her to her grave. As a result, she stuttered, “N-No! It’s impossible! If she’s aware of the truth, she’s not going to play along with me!” Clarissa will definitely come after me and confront me in person if she’s aware I’m not her biological mother! In fact, she’s going to approach the Smallwoods and tell them the truth! There’s no way she’s going to keep them in the dark when she can easily get herself another strong backing in life as the sole heiress of the Smallwoods! It’s impossible for her to remain one of the Quigleys who possess nothing! Hilary thought she would get to take the secret to her grave with her as she did a great job keeping everyone in the dark. Judy was the only one she could think of as she was one of the mere few who were aware of the truth. “Nothing is impossible! Otherwise, why has the Wynters done Clarissa such a huge favor? You don’t think they have nothing better to do, do you?”

“She’s your aunt, isn’t she? Why has she—”
“Isn’t it obvious? You’re the only foolish one who thinks you’re doing a great job keeping

others in the dark! Since you have gone overboard, Clarissa won't even hesitate to take you out!"

Hilary was intimidated by the things Shermaine had brought up. She asked with her voice quivering, "S-Shermaine, what am I supposed to do next?"

Y-You're my daughter! Y-You have to help me! I can't rely on anyone else apart from you!"

Infuriated by Hilary's reply, Shermaine yelled, "Shut up! I'm not your daughter! Never bring that up in front of me again! Am I clear?"

"B-But—"

"Aren't you asking me to do you a favor?"

"Y-Yes! I-I'll keep that in mind and seal my mouth!"

"Alright, that's it for today! I'll think of something and get in touch with you in the near future! Also, you're not allowed to contact me! We'll remain strangers forever!"

As soon as she finished her sentence, Shermaine hung up the call.

On the other hand, Hilary, who thought she could get to the better of everyone, had her eyes flickering in despair as she imagined the things awaiting her in the near future.

At the end of the day, it turned out that her dreams of living a lavish life were nothing more than her own wishful thinking.

As much as Hilary regretted her decisions, there wasn't anything else she could do to turn the tables around.

When Hilary heard her phone buzzing, she thought Shermaine had figured out something on her behalf.

Immediately, she picked it up and asked, "Have you figured out my next best course of action?"

The person on the other end asked, "Hello, is this Ms. Bowen? I'm calling on behalf of Mrs. Tyson as her appointed attorney to inform you we have pressed charges against you—"

The helpless woman went dead silent throughout the conversation as the attorney went on and explained everything she was supposed to be made known of.

I-It's Clarissa! S-She is coming after me! Is she serious about pressing charges against me? Is there anything else I can do? There's no way I can get someone who's on par with the attorney of the Tysons to help!

Hilary thought she was destined to be doomed as she had never intended to press charges against Clarissa in the first place.

She thought she could take advantage of Clarissa as Clarissa might hesitate to air the dirty laundry and had her reputation ruined. Had that been the case, she would get to coerce Clarissa and acquire the fortune she had been longing for at ease.

Hilary finally had a taste of her own medicine. Albeit the drastic turn of events, things

had not progressed according to the plan she devised.

She couldn't believe she had to bear the consequences of her rash decision and atone for her sins for the rest of her life.

"W-Wait! I wish to meet Clarissa in person! If she refuses to meet me in person, I'll announce something else that's capable of turning her life upside down! Unless she meets me in person, or I'll ruin her life!"

It took the attorney a few seconds to make up his mind. In the end, he said, "Alright, I'll get in touch with Mrs. Tyson on your behalf."

Meanwhile, as soon as Clarissa heard everything, she sneered and deadpanned her reply, "No!"

Ha! Has she finally learned her lesson?

There's nothing left to talk about since she has made up her mind to mess with me! She

doesn't have anything that can threaten me anymore!

It's time for her to learn her lesson and bear the consequences of her actions since she

has stirred things up and made my life miserable!
Unfortunately, she has picked on the wrong target as nothing
can possibly harm me
anymore!
Hilary shouldn't have gotten her hopes high—things had turned
out the other way round
once again.
She was on the verge of losing her mind as things had never
once turned out as she
imagined ever since the day she commenced her plan.
In spite of putting everything at stake, she ended up with
nothing in return. She had
successfully provoked Clarissa when she was in the middle of
filing for divorce with
Zach.
In other words, she had to brace herself through the things in
store without her husband.
She could only rely on Shermaine to get herself out of the nasty
situation.
Shermaine soon got in touch with Hilary through another call
instead of meeting her in
person.
Once Hilary heard Shermaine's plan, she immediately packed
her stuff and departed
from D City.
She wasn't just about to flee. Instead, she made her way to W
City and returned to
Catherine's place.
Clarissa's heart sank to the bottom of her stomach when she
saw Hilary behind
Catherine the moment she joined Catherine for a video call
session.

“Clary, this irritating woman said she couldn't reach you!
However, I'm not trying to do
her a favor! Instead, I'm trying to tell you not to worry about me
and make the call you
need to sever ties with her! I'll always support you! Although
she hasn't mentioned
anything in front of me, I'm sure she's here in an attempt to
threaten you since I'm your
only soft spot! Just do whatever it takes to get rid of her!”

Hilary was stupefied as Catherine had gotten worked up in front of her.

As a result, she asked with her expression darkened, "Mom, how can you pick on me when I'm not even asking for much from her? You're not going to leave me alone when I'm in desperate need of help, are you? My late husband, your late son, Clarissa's late father, would do everything just to keep me safe!"

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Catherine wasn't able to suppress her wrath anymore when Hilary brought up her late son in front of her.

"Shut up! You're in no position to bring him up! You were the one and only he cared about, but you didn't even flinch when you left Clary behind! If there's someone indebted to him, it's you!"

Hilary smirked as if she couldn't be bothered. She rebuked, "He would never allow me to live a miserable life. I'm sure he's glad I have been living a great life since he's no longer around to take care of me."

"Y-You're such a shameless woman! G-Get out of my sight at once!"

Catherine put her phone aside and started waving her walking stick in Hilary's direction in an attempt to chase her out. As a result, Clarissa wasn't able to gain vision over the things going on.

She could merely hear their conversation. The shameless Hilary wouldn't stop provoking Catherine with her harsh remarks.

"Why don't you calm down and listen to me when I'm merely trying to tell you the truth?

You can't deny I have given birth to Clarissa, can you? Are you going to dismiss my

contribution to the Quigleys? She can easily sever ties with me, but it won't change the fact that she's my daughter! I mean, you don't want others to deem her an unfilial daughter, do you?"

Clarissa, who was on the other end of the call, started shivering in anger as she heard their conversation.

She immediately hung up the call and acquired Hilary's contact number from the attorney. Seconds after Catherine chased Hilary out of her place, Hilary received a call from someone.

Hilary beamed in satisfaction and picked up the call after marching her way out of Catherine's place.

Clarissa yelled, "Hilary, what the heck do you want from me?" Her so-called mother, who had a relatively disheveled look after the fight with Catherine, started running her fingers through her unkempt hair with a grin.

She took her sweet time to gather her thoughts and cleared her throat before answering,

"Aren't you aware of the things I'm up to? Actually, I'm not even asking for much, Clary!

You can easily sever ties with me but not with your beloved Grandma, can you? Since you refuse to talk to me, I have no choice but to try my luck with her!"

Clarissa hesitated no more. She addressed Hilary with her first name and asked, "Since when have you become such a shameless woman, Hilary?"

Hilary wasn't particularly irked by Clarissa's response. She played along with her so-called daughter and asked, "Have you no manners, Clary? You're not supposed to address your mother with her first name!"

"Are you sure you're my mother?"

Chuckling, Hilary asked, "Aren't you aware of the truth? Shall we confront your grandmother and see if she's aware of the truth as well?"

It was then Clarissa figured it was an attempt of Hilary to coerce her into submission since Catherine was the only one Clarissa cared about. Hilary is certain I won't tell Grandma I'm not a member of the Quigleys! She's trying to warn me to stop challenging her if I want to keep Grandma safe! You're so smart, Hilary! You have gotten the better of me for once! There's nothing I can do about it because you're right—Grandma is the only one I care about! I can't afford to put her life at stake! Gritting her teeth in wrath, Clarissa found Hilary despicable yet there was nothing she could do to stop her so-called mother. Hilary felt great as Clarissa went dead silent. It was the first time in forever things started progressing the way she wanted. She felt a sense of relief after spending the past few days in fear and humiliation. It works like a charm! All thanks to Shermaine's plan to threaten Clarissa with that old hag! "Clary, what's wrong? If you're not going to answer my queries, allow me to share my upcoming plan with you! I'll be staying here to keep Catherine company for another few days. To be honest, I'm equally upset because of the things awaiting us. I can't believe you're pressing charges against your own mother!"

As Clarissa remained silent, Hilary felt a sense of superiority. She felt a strong urge to meet her so-called daughter in person to get a glimpse of her current expression. It's time to get her back for the things she has put me through over the past few days! "It has been quite a few years since my last visit! I'll take a short break from everything for a few days and enjoy myself in W City! As for the court trial, why don't you take care of it on our behalf? Things have been hectic on my end over the past few days! I'll spend

the next few days with Catherine and reminisce about the good old days with her!"

Hilary hung up the call immediately after she wrapped up her conversation.

Unable to contain her excitement, she burst out laughing in the middle of the streets.

When she caught the onlookers staring at her with their brows furrowed, she knew she had to get a grip on herself.

Hilary then checked herself into a nearby hotel and took a shower.

Once she finished indulging herself, she called Shermaine and announced, "Shermaine, you're so brilliant! Clarissa stopped picking on me just because of that old hag! I can't believe that old hag gets to live such a long life in spite of bringing upon the demise of her husband and her son. Anyway, she had just done me a huge favor."

Shermaine instructed, "You need to refrain from trying anything silly just because you have gotten the better of Clarissa for once. Also, never make any rash decision without consulting me. Otherwise, I'll leave you alone if things head south in the future."

"Sure! I'll keep that in my mind since you're my dearest daughter!"

"Shut up!"

"Alright, I'll keep my mouth shut! Shermaine, you're such a brilliant girl! How have you figured out that old hag is the only one Clarissa cares about? Is she even in her right mind? I mean, she's not even a member of the Quigleys!"

Shermaine responded with a self-deprecating smirk and added, "Clarissa is different from you and me. She'll never leave her grandmother behind, let alone putting her life at stake over something trivial."

"I guess you're right, Shermaine! Speaking of which, what are you going to do if she confronts you as well as the Wynters and the Smallwoods?"

“That’s not much of a concern because Clarissa doesn’t even want anything from us.

She won’t even confront them unless it’s initiated by the Smallwoods and the Wynters.

At the very least, she won’t try anything silly as long as Mrs. Quigley is still alive.

Therefore, you need to refrain from provoking Mrs. Quigley. Otherwise, there’s nothing you can do to coerce Clarissa if Mrs. Quigley is no longer around.”

Hilary thought Shermaine was right and secretly prayed Catherine could live another few years. Otherwise, she might not get to live the carefree life she had always wanted.

Shermaine hung up the call and smirked when she recalled the sort of people she had encountered during her time behind bars.

The police thought the criminals would learn their lessons and turn over a new leaf once they finished serving their sentences.

Unfortunately, that wasn’t the case since most of them had a similar goal in mind—to get their revenge.

Similarly, over the past three years Shermaine spent behind bars, she had been

reflecting upon the reason she was convicted in the first place. She thought of all sorts of things, including the things she had to do once she was set

free. The only person she had in mind throughout the years was Clarissa.

After spending years studying Clarissa, Shermaine found out Clarissa had the attributes commonly possessed by those amiable figures.

On the other hand, she was the exact opposite of Clarissa—she was just a vicious

woman who was corrupted at her very core of existence.

Clarissa’s attributes are precisely the reason Matthew is head over heels in love with her.

In short, I need to learn to behave myself and get others to deem me a loveable woman as well.

She spent most of her time researching the ways to behave herself to deceive others, including the way to carry herself with a smile and remain humble at all times.

Shermaine was also well aware of the shortcoming of Clarissa and women of her likes. Their shortcomings happened to be the things she had been leveraging on to achieve her goals in life.

Clarissa had no intention to get her hands on the Smallwoods' assets as she couldn't be bothered at all. Never would she leave the Quigleys behind just because they had brought her up over the years.

Shermaine, who had just been recently set free, wasn't worried since she was certain Clarissa wouldn't appreciate the Smallwoods' presence. Therefore, she was never afraid Clarissa would take away the things she had her eyes on from her.

As long as Dad and Mom aren't aware of the truth, it's fine! Maybe it will still be even if they're aware of the truth! Since Clarissa is such a righteous woman, she will turn them down even if they offer her everything that belongs to them! She's just a foolish woman! Anyway, it's no thanks to her I can easily get things my way!

Shermaine brought herself up and looked at herself in the mirror. She smiled the way she had practiced countless times in the past. That was the genuine smile of those amiable figures. It was supposed to be a timid smile that would make her a humble woman who could easily win others' trust.

If I greet others in this manner, are they going to deem me a pitiable woman and side with me in the foreseeable future?

I guess it won't take long until I'm back to my prime! Most of my friends have fallen for my act and offered their help to get me back to the industry!

Similarly, my foolish fans have been picking on those who try to stop me from making a comeback in the industry! They won't stop sharing the miseries I have gone through when those are nothing more than their imaginations! I guess it pays off to stay humble and pitiable, huh? It's not even necessary for me to do anything since others have everything under control on my behalf!

Shermaine started caressing herself in the face as she lost herself in the process of thought. A vicious smirk showed up for a split second and returned to her usual pitiable self again.

"Shermaine?"

When Shermaine heard Kayla knocking on her door, she walked over and answered the door with a genuine smile.

"Mom? What's wrong?"

Kayla marched into Shermaine's room and grasped her daughter's hand, announcing with a bright grin, "It's nothing much! I'm just afraid you're bored after staying home for such a long time! We want to bring you out for a walk with us!" "Sure!" Shermaine nodded and thought she might get things her way without doing anything as long as she continued playing the role of a filial daughter.