

Chapter 7: Bitter Truth is Better than Sweet Lie

With a flushed face, Rosalind shook her head. She clenched her hands and took a deep breath. "No, Gabe. Please don't force me"

Instantly, Gabriel stopped his advance though his breath was rasping. He touched his forehead to hers, closed his eyes, and sighed. "Woman, you truly know how to torture me."

"It's not my intention" Rosalind closed her eyes too. "Please, let me wear my clothes again. If you won't force me, we won't have sex."

Gabriel finally let Rosalind go and wore his clothes too despite he was eager to seduce her again. However, he didn't want to take her by force. It was something against his values. When he stared at her, she grasped her hands and gazed back at him.

Brushing her hand on her trousers, Rosalind asked, "Can I go now?"

"Not yet. Sit and I'll tell you something."

Rosalind creased her forehead. "What is it?"

"Sit first."

Touching her nape, she still stood there. "So?"

"Patience isn't your virtue, is it?" Gabriel teased her. He sat first on the couch, waiting for her to do what he said.

Her lips twitched and finally formed a smile. "Yeah, I guess so." After sitting on another couch before Gabriel, Rosalind asked again, "So?"

Gabriel stared at Rosalind for a while. "I tell you this to open your eyes. It may hurt you, but I always believe the bitter truth is much better than sweet lies."

"I agree." She nodded. "Please continue. I'm dying to know."

"About Jeremy." Gabriel stopped for a few seconds to ensure he got her attention. Despite Rosalind striving so hard to not show any emotions, her lips betrayed her. They quivered for a second. 1

"Go on," she said.

"I know about Jeremy and his girl far from I met you in the Da Costa's family events." 1

Rosalind's eyes widened. Gasping for air, she gulped and took a deep breath because, although Gabriel hadn't told her the details, it already hurt her. "Since when?"

Gabriel creased his forehead while thinking. "Far from he made you his girlfriend. The girl, what's the name?" He tapped his fingers on the couch. "Wilson." His forehead frowned again. "Ah, yes, Monica Wilson. I met her twice."

Rosalind said nothing, but she bent her body forward unconsciously because she wanted to hear who, why, how, when, and where Jeremy cheated her. So she paid full attention to listen to what Gabriel said.

"I met her not at Da Costa's family events, for sure. In fact, I'm sure Bianca didn't know Jeremy had a relationship with Monica. If my sister knew about it, she would surely disapprove."

"Why?"

"Patience, darling. You need to learn more about patience."

Rosalind touched her nape and shrugged. "It's hard I badly want to know about it"

"Let me start from the start. I told you I met her not at Da Costa's family. The first time I met her was at a club."

She raised her eyebrows. "Monica is a server in the club?"

Gabriel shook his head. "Nope. If she were a server, Bianca might still approve of it." He took a time before continuing his words, "The club where I met her for the first time was a strip club. She was a stripper there. Until now, I believe she is still working there."

Rosalind processed for a moment what she heard. The 'who', 'when', and 'where' had been answered. The remaining was only 'why'.

"The second time I met her was when I saw Jeremy with a girl. They had been out of a hotel, and I was sure I had seen the girl before. Later, I remembered about the stripper from the club."

Taking a deep breath, Rosalind leaned her head to the couch. Then she stared at Gabriel. "Have you ever asked Jeremy about her? I mean Monica?"

"Yes. I asked him after the family event when he brought you for the first time."

"Oh?" Rosalind frowned. "When was it?"

"Four years ago. You wore a light brown shirt and black trousers. Then your long hair was lifted neatly in a bun, showing your slender neck."

Rosalind gaped because Gabriel's description of her was accurate but also quite detailed for someone who just met her. "Do you have a habit of observing anyone you just met?"

"No, why?"

"Because you could describe me in so detail, while the event was four years ago. I'm amazed!"

Gabriel only smiled. Then he gazed at Rosalind. "Do you want to know why Jeremy cheated on you?"

She took another deep breath. "Yes, please. I want to know. No ... I need to know."

"Okay. Embrace yourself." He stopped for a while, wondering how much he should tell her. After a while, he finally said, "I asked Jeremy right after the event four years ago if he had ended his relationship with Monica. I guessed he was surprised that I knew about her. He seemed even curious about why I asked." Gabriel shrugged. "Considering I have never asked about other's business, unless it's important. So I have never meddled with his business, even he's my nephew."

It intrigued her that Gabriel could consider Jeremy's relationship with Monica as important, but she asked nothing about it. After a while, she asked, "What did he say?"

"He said he had never ended his relationship with Monica because she was his permanent partner," He tapped his fingers on his chin, "while you were his shield."

"Shield? I don't get it."

"Jeremy knew Bianca wouldn't approve of his relationship with Monica. That's why he dated you while he still enjoyed his time with Monica."

Rosalind bent her head and put it on her bent knees. She gulped and let out a choking sound.

"Rose, are you okay?"

Her voice was strangled. "I ... I can't breathe"

Gabriel rushed to her side and patted her back. "Breathe slowly." When Rosalind followed his direction, he patted her back again. "Good girl. Take another breath."

Rosalind finally could breathe normally. However, her eyes were wet with tears. "He cheated me for five years H-how blind I was"

He wrapped his arms around her waist and comforted her by rocking her body. "Rose"

"I was such a fool. How could I not know?" Sobbing, Rosalind poured her tears on Gabriel's T-shirt. "If Lynn didn't tell me, I wouldn't know it until now."

Gabriel didn't have any words to comfort her. So he continued

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rocking her body as if she were a baby, and whispered in her ear, "Cry now. But after today, don't shed your tears anymore for him."



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