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Rosalind went to Jeremy's apartment with no prior notice. She wanted to ensure she would get a closure that day. Five years had been too long, and she didn't want to waste more of her time for someone who didn't appreciate her.

Jeremy didn't open the door when she pressed the bell button. So, she called him. He picked the call at the third call.

"Rosalind?"

"I want to speak with you for a few minutes. I'm at the door of your apartment."

"It's not a good time. Maybe an hour from now?"

Taking a deep breath, Rosalind shook her head. "I won't take a lot of your time. Five minutes at max."

"Okay, then. I'll open the door. Wait for me."

Gulping, she prepared herself to stay calm and collected. But then, when she saw Jeremy, looking cheerful as if he had no problem in the world, anger and hatred filled her heart. How could he do this to her?

"Rosalind? What do you want to talk about?" Jeremy asked.

"Can we sit?" She gestured at the dark brown couch on the veranda.

Jeremy scratched his head. "Sure. Sorry, I'm a little rushed because

of some busyness. You know."

Rosalind sat and wanted to sigh aloud because she was too hurt. As she tried hard to control her emotion, she took time before telling him what she thought.

Then she finally said, "I know about Monica and how you have used me as your shield for five years. So, I want to end everything." Then she let out a gasp of laughter—more like a choking sound. "Though after knowing everything, we didn't have any relationship left I just want a closure so we won't have any misunderstanding in the future."

"Wait! What are you talking about?" He frowned and tugged his shirt.

That's when a woman's voice called Jeremy. "Honey, who are you talking about?" She walked outside, only wearing a tank top and short pants. The woman even didn't wear a bra, as Rosalind could see the woman's nipple clearly through her tank top.

Jeremy stood and pushed Monica. "Go inside. I have a business here."

"But-"

"Go!"

Monica leered at Rosalind, but then she grinned. "Rosalind, right? Of course, darling. You can talk with my man anytime." Then she walked inside, flaunting her sexy bottom. "Don't be too long, honey. You need to keep your promise for the third round."

Tears of humiliation and shame filled Rosalind's eyes. "Is that it?" Her

voice was hoarse. "You are with her because of sex?"

Jeremy let out a long sigh. "Look, I tried so hard to love you. But then, you always refuse when I ask for sex. I'm a normal guy with a healthy appetite for sex, and Monica is always ready to fulfill my needs. So, don't blame me for that."

"But then ... five years? You let me waste my life for five years."
Rosalind emphasized all words. Then she wiped her tears with the back of her hand, too devastated by his answer. "Have you even thought of me?" Her voice was broken. "I always thought I had to be better so your family would accept me wholeheartedly. I wanted you to be proud of me. That's why I worked so hard" She wanted to curl and leave his place right away, but she forced herself to continue. "But then, it's only lies"

"I'm sorry, Rosalind." He touched his nape. "I don't know what I must say. I know I'm a freaking selfish man. You deserve a better man."

Rosalind stood. She took a deep breath and nodded. "You bet I am. Good bye, Jeremy."

"I'm sorry. I hope I can fix it up, but I can't."

Then Rosalind left Jeremy's apartment without looking back. Her heart ached immensely. Jeremy didn't deny everything. He even blamed her for refusing to have sex with him as the reason he was into Monica more than her.

Would it be different if she gave up before? She stopped walking. Her hand touched a wall nearby because she felt too weak to continue walking. But then, knowing how Jeremy stayed with Monica for five

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years, it would be enough for her to stop thinking of the 'what if'.

No matter what his reason was, she knew he wouldn't stay with Monica for five years if he didn't love her. Besides, it had happened. She couldn't change the past.

At least she ended things with him. She didn't need to waste more of her time trying to impress his family anymore. Though regretting the new clothes she recently bought to attend his family events, Rosalind knew she already tried her best.

Wiping her eyes, she glanced at the sky. It was bright, as if it wanted to comfort her. She took a deep breath and look at the sky again. No more tears this time. Clenching her hands, she told herself of the good days ahead of her, no matter what had happened.

Gabriel waited in a black SUV near Jeremy's apartment. Luca Russo, his driver, gazed at him a few times in the rearview mirror. It was the first time his boss was so fixated on someone. But Luca said nothing.

When Gabriel saw Rosalind leave Jeremy's apartment, crying and walking with slump shoulders, he wanted to accompany her. But then he stopped himself. His Rose might be fragile right now, but she had her pride. She wouldn't accept his pity.

He smiled. His Rose, what a suitable name for her, because it was what she is—his. Jeremy was foolish to waste a good woman, but maybe he should thank his nephew since Rosalind's broken heart helped him to have her more easily.

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That's when his phone rang. He checked it. It was Pietro Bernardi, his right hand. Gabriel picked it up immediately. "Yes?"

"Boss, I already got the info you asked for."

"And?"

"Rosalind Miller has two jobs currently. First, as a clerk from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Beck and Partners, then a server from 4 to 9 p.m. in Premium Steak. She still pursues online education to get a bachelor's degree in the Business department of the GBC. GBC is Good Business College, a good college specific for the business and management department."

"Hmm," Gabriel said. "What else did you have?"

"She is an orphan and raised in an orphanage. She has no one, only a best friend, Lynnette Martin, twenty-three years old."

"She didn't have any siblings?"

"Let me search for it first. Where did I write it?" A sound of screeching paper was heard. "Let me see. No, I found nothing else about siblings."

"I see. Considering she is an orphan, it makes sense. Good job, Pietro! I know I can always count on you."

"Always a pleasure, boss. I have a question, tho."

"Hmm?"

