

The Billionaire's Hidden Obsession by Hikikomori Chapter 1

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Chapter 1

“CONGRATULATIONS, you’re 12 weeks pregnant,”

The doctor’s announcement was still echoing through Sera’s ears as she wrapped a robe around her belly. She caressed it gently with one hand while smiling. She was aware that something was off with her these past few days, but she never imagined it would be due to a pregnancy.

“I can’t believe a tiny baby is growing inside of me,” she muttered to herself before staring at the ultrasound result that she had accidentally brought into the bathroom.

“Sera,” she flinched as she heard Sebastian’s voice. She panicked a little and hid the ultrasound result in her robe’s pocket before stepping out of the bathroom.

“I thought you’d be home late today,” she said as she approached her husband, trying to hide her excitement. She was about to give him a back hug and inform him that she had just returned from the hospital when he turned around and handed her a brown envelope.

“Sign it. Sera gulped as she noticed how cold his eyes were but ignored it, assuming he was tired from work: She took the envelope with trembling hands but when she opened it, her heart began to race and then froze as she read the words ‘Divorce agreement

“It’s been almost two years and this marriage was no longer worth keeping, Sebastian informed his wife, who looked at him blankly. Her hands began to shake more violently than usual and she could feel them begin to sweat. She checked the paper again to make sure she was reading it correctly before looking up at him stunned and perplexed, trying to process what he was telling her,

“Come on, Seb. Are you pulling a prank on me? She tried hard to laugh it off and was about to grab Sebastian’s hand, but he took a step back, avoiding her touch like a plague. “End 1 do anything

“I slept with Samantha,” he said bluntly, startling Sera into seeing Sebastian

just sighed and rubbed his brow, "She's pregnant.

"W-what?" She staggered backward upon hearing those words her tears began falling

"She's pregnant with my child," he replied, and she couldn't do anything but so as she clutched the ultrasound result in her Tobe's 's pocket

Sera accepted his proposal after 1 year of dating because she loved him so much. She thought she'd already healed his broken heart and that he needed her, but she was probably being delusional. That their nearly three years of being together had only been a dream of hers.

"Are you still in love with your ex she managed to ask but he just gave her an unreadable expression and didn't respond at

.no

"Okay," she smiled bitterly. "If you don't want to admit it, at least answer this.."

She pursed her lips.

"Did you even love me?" She wondered as another tear streamed down her cheeks. She wiped them away impatiently, but they just kept falling

"Yes, but not as I love Samantha, Sebastian said softly, but the words rang hollow in her ears. Sera shut her eyes tightly and bit her bottom lip hard to avoid an embarrassing s*b, she then walked past him and placed the divorce paper on the table behind him.

"I just need to sign it, right?" she asked, her gaze fixed on the divorce papers on the table. When he didn't respond, she read the content and immediately signed it before her tears started flowing again

After signing the papers. Sebastian's phone rang, forcing her to turn around and face him.

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"Samantha," She felt a pang in her stomach at how sweet his voice was while saying his ex-girlfriend's name. He didn't even spare her a glance before going to the balcony and closing the door so she couldn't hear their conversation.

“You’re so f*****g cr*el,” Sera muttered and wiped away the last of her tears. She took one last look at the papers before getting dressed and leaving.

That night, she decided to crash at Emma’s place. She’s been her best friend since middle school. She’s been there for her through thick and thin, so she told her everything, including her pregnancy and Sebastian’s confession.

“That f*****g ba***rd!” Emma yelled as soon as Sera finished speaking “Did you hit him? Please tell me that you did!”

Sera chuckled, she was too preoccupied with protecting her ego to punch the st**id bas**rd in the face. Even though she could barely control herself, she wanted to keep her pride intact at the time. She knew that even if she pleaded or told Sebastian about her pregnancy, he would still divorce her and choose Samantha over her. Begging was easy but she wasn’t that desperate yet-she may love Sebastian, but she will not let him ruin her life.

“No, but someday, I will,” she said, faking a smile as she looked into her best friend’s concerned eyes.

Emma knew full well that Sera was just trying to hide from reality by pretending everything was fine, she’s always been like that, trying so desperately to stay strong for others while inside she was breaking apart in pieces. She admired Sera for that, but she was afraid that someday she would crumble without anyone noticing

“As you should.” Emma said, “What will you do now?”

“I’ll talk to my parents and move abroad, she answered without hesitation. She wished to get as far away as possible. Away from Sebastian. “I know it will be difficult, but I plan to raise the child bam carrying alone.”

“Alone? No bi**h, I’ll go with you. I will help you” Emma hugged her, kissing her temples and whispering sweet nothings into her ear as if she knew exactly what she needed.

SERA SPENT A FEW DAYS avoiding Sebastian and eventually persuading her parents. They were upset because of what happened, but she begged them not to confront Sebastian and to keep her pregnancy a secret. They are initially opposed, but they change their minds after seeing

how desperate she appears while staying with them.

“Ma’am Sera,” Anji, Sebastian’s nanny, said as soon as she walked into the house. “Did you get into a fight with Sebastian?”

“Yeah, a little, he’s not home, right?” she asked, but she got anxious when Anji fiddled with her fingers nervously.

“H-he didn’t go to work today, and he brought a woman home last night, she said quietly, and Sera knew exactly who she was referring to. Her stomach felt heavy, and her heartbeat increased, but she told herself not to cry or to stress herself for the baby’s sake.

“I see, thank you for informing me.” She nodded, forcing a smile as she walked upstairs. When she got to their room, she took a deep breath and opened the door. Her gaze was immediately drawn to the familiar blonde woman sleeping on their bed.

“Sera.” Sebastian said as he stood from the couch, his face flushed with surprise.

“Our divorce had not yet been finalized, and you had already taken her home,” she gritted her teeth, fighting back tears that threatened to spill over.

“She’s sleeping: can’t we talk about this ehewhere?” he asked, making her shake her head in disbelief.

“No, there’s nothing to talk about; I’m just here to take my belongings.” She sighed and turned away from him to begin packing quietly, but it wasn’t long before she heard Samantha’s voice.

“Are you leaving the house?” Sera briefly closed her eyes and decided to ignore her, but she was baffled when she began helping her as if it was the most natural thing to do.

“You’re so stu*id that you didn’t realize your husband had been cheating on you for a year now,” Samantha whispered, but she remained calm.

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“Did you really bu

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Battery power 15% Charge your tablet or tap here to turn on Power saving mode.

running to me like a dog if I let him.” Samantha provokes her again and this time, Sera finally slapped the sh*t out of her.

“Ouch!” She sobbed, rubbing her cheek.

“Serayah!” Sebastian yelled as he charged towards her and snatched her arm roughly. “Why are you being a b*tch? She was just trying to help!”

Sera glared at him and couldn’t help but scoffed. However, she was taken aback when he slapped her hard enough to knock her down, her stomach hitting the suitcase. She was about to say something but gasped when the pain flared in her stomach, A wave of nausea hit her, and the next thing she knew, she was bleeding.

“M-my baby,” she sobbed as she clutched her belly, her hands trembling in fear.

“What baby? You’re pregnant?” Sebastian’s eyes widened, and when he was about to approach her, Samantha stopped him.

“Don’t help her, Seb. She’ll only cause problems if she keeps her baby. We’ve already had a child. If you help her. I’ll have an abortion.

Sera clenched her fist, wanting to get up and pull Samantha’s hair, but the pain made it impossible. Everything felt like it was spinning, and she was about to pass out any moment now, but she couldn’t let that happen.

“Sebastian, help me, please.” Sera begged, throwing her pride. but her heart sank when he backed away and just stared at her coldly while holding Samantha’s waist.

“Get out, you’re messing up the floor.” Sebastian’s icy voice sent chills down her spine. At that exact moment, Sera forced herself to stand up. Her knees were trembling, but she managed to push forward, leaving her suitcase behind.

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“Oh my G*d, Ma’am Sera. W-what happened?” Anji frantically ran towards her when she saw her going downstairs, blood trickling down her legs.

"1-1 need to go to the hospital, please," she said between gasps as she stumbled along. Her stomach hurt so much that she couldn't stand up straight. She was in excruciating pain, physically and emotionally-all she wanted to do was collapse. "L-let's go, ma'am-Anji was about to help her, but Sebastian appeared before she could.

"No, you're not going to help her; clean up the blood in the room: Samantha dislikes the smell of blood and she might slip

"But-

"Your daughter is sick, nanny; do you want to lose your job?" He scowled, and Anji immediately shut up, looking at Sera, who simply nodded before making her way outside without anyone's assistance. She's beginning to feel dizzy, but when she finally gets outside, she walks toward the road and blocks a car driving straight toward her.

"What the f*ck was wrong with you, crazy woman?!" the man yelled, but Sera still approached the window.

"Please take me to the hospital; I'll repay you with anything you want if you help me!" she said desperately, her vision blurry. The man said something to her, but she began to lose consciousness even before she could hear it. When she woke up, she noticed she was already in the hospital, and the memory of what had happened returned. She groaned as tears streamed down her cheeks. She couldn't believe Sebastian did that knowing she was pregnant with their child. Why would he do such despicable things? Isn't it enough that he cheated on her? Just what did she do to deserve that. kind of treatment?

"What's wrong? Are you hurt anywhere?" Sera raised her head to look at the person speaking to her. His green eyes stared into hers, she could feel their intensity. She felt as if he was looking directly through her soul.. Right into her thoughts. She took a few shaky breaths to pull herself together before speaking.

"W-who are you?" she stuttered as the man with the snake tattoo on his left forearm all the way down to the side of his hand approached her. She then notices blood on his sleeves, which she assumes is why he rolled them up.

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“Me? I’m the one who saved you,” he said, his hand resting on the headboard. “You don’t happen to forget what you said before you passed out, do you?”

SEND GIFT

Chapter 2

SERA’S MIND WENT BLANK; she was trying to remember what she had said to him, and when it came back to her, she pursed her lips.

“I guess you remembered,” the man said before pressing the button to call someone over. She frowned, trying to remember where she had seen this man before; it was their first meeting, but he seemed familiar somehow. She felt like she recognized him from somewhere else, but she couldn’t quite put her finger on it.

“How are you feeling, Mrs. Garcia?” Dr. Giselle asked as she entered the room, she was Sera’s OB-GYN

I-L... My baby, w-what happened to the baby?” she stammered and the look into the doctor’s face fell a little. At that exact moment, Sera knew that something wasn’t right, and it made her blood run cold.

“I-is something wrong with the baby?”

“I’m sorry, you had a heavy blow to your abdomen, and that led to you having a miscarriage Her gentle voice didn’t help to calm her down, instead, it just made her cry again and buried her face in her palms sorry for your loss. I know it’s hard but everything’s going to be alright. Try breathing deeply. Dr. Giselle tried to comfort her and when she finally calmed down, she gave her some advice about her health. After what seemed like hours, she finally left. Sera slowly sat up in bed and realized that the man she had spoken to earlier was still inside the room.

“Sorry,” she mumbled before wiping her tears away. She looked at him, her gaze softening as she studied his features. He was tall with a black man bun hairstyle and a strong jawline His olive skin tone made him stand out, especially his green. eyes, which radiated mystery.

“Why are you apologizing?” He questioned, glancing out the window.

“Because you witnessed something unpleasant.” Sera trailed off. “And for blocking your car

“Hmm, well. What you did was dangerous and thanks to you. I’m already

late for my flight, he said bluntly which made her more guilty. He looked at her from the corner of his eye, then at his wristwatch.

"I should get going," he said as he adjusted his suit.

"Uhm, wait, how would I repay you?" she asked, trying not to sound so desperate, but it came out that way.

"I'll collect the payment later," he said, smiling. Sera was perplexed and before she could thank him, he had already left to answer a phone call. She just pursed her lips and held her stomach. She felt so helpless, she couldn't even protect her child and thank the person who helped her.

"What am I doing?" she sighed, tears streaming down her cheeks for the nth time. She quickly wiped them away and clenched her fist. She then hugged her knees, wishing that this nightmare would end, but her mind wouldn't leave her be.

"Sera..." a familiar voice said in a panic. When she looked up, her tears began to flow faster again. Emma pursed her lips and dashed into the room to hug her, her heart sinking as she heard her best friend s*b. She was at work when she received a phone call informing her that Sera had been admitted to the hospital. She had no idea who the other person was, but all she wanted to do was get to her as soon as possible.

"I lost the baby," Sera whispered through s*bs while Emma patted her back gently.

This was the first time she'd seen her cry like this, and she was afraid she'd lost herself completely in this situation.

"Babe, look at me," she said, still wiping her best friend's eyes. Sera's bloodshot red eyes stared straight ahead as if she were dead inside, and Emma feared seeing her like that-It broke her heart.

"You're stronger than this; you're Sera, remember? I know this situation is difficult for you, but you need to get better, you need to be strong to bring your unborn child's death to justice." Emma tried to persuade her, fearful that this ordeal would lead to Sera harming herself or, worse, taking her own life. She'll just keep an eye on her and help her in finding a reason to live, no matter how difficult it may be

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Chapter 2

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"I know," Sera replied, nodding. "I will try-no. I will get better, if not, how can I make those evil pay for what they have done?"

“What goes around comes around, they’ll get their due someday,” Emma muttered as she grabbed the bottled water near the bed and handed it to her. “But what’s your plan now? Are you still going abroad?”

“No, I don’t need to run away now that I’m no longer pregnant,” she sipped her water and smiled at Emma. She was determined to exact her vengeance, so it didn’t take long for her to recover from the incident. She got better, but some wounds would never heal completely.

“FINALLY!” she muttered as she sat on the window seat, staring out at the city lights. It’s been months since the incident, and she’s already moved into her new apartment, where she intends to begin her new life.

“Are you sure you’re going back to work tomorrow?” her younger brother, Simon, inquired as he helped her sister with her luggage. Fortunately, Anji was kind enough to deliver her suitcase on the day of the incident, so she still has most of her belongings.

“Yes, why?” she asked, her gaze fixed on him.

“Nothing, I’m just worried,” Simon replied, causing Sera to smile.

The death of her unborn child was heartbreaking, but she needed to move on. She needed to get back on her feet and get her life back on track.

It may take some time, but she will eventually exact revenge on those who have wronged her. For the time being, she will concentrate on living her life.

“Stop worrying, I’m fine now,” she reassured her brother, and Simon simply nodded, looking unconvinced. He can’t help but feel uneasy, especially since he knows Sebastian has been contacting her recently.

“Okay, call me if anything happens.” he said, and Sera smiled.

“All right, thank you,” she said as she stood up and ruffled his hair before she walked him out the door. As soon as he left, she sighed and walked towards the kitchen to make herself a coffee, but after a few minutes, the doorbell rang

“Did he forget something?” she muttered, referring to Simon. She set her cup on the countertop before walking to the front door and opening it with enthusiasm, but her face turned sour when she saw Sebastian

“Why are you here?”

SEND GIFT

Chapter 3

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"I've been wanting to talk to you, but you keep ignoring my calls," he said, shamelessly entering her apartment. She frowned and clenched her fist; as much as she wanted to kick him out, she couldn't do anything that would bother her neighbor. She simply shut the door and followed him inside.

"What the hell do you want? How did you know where I live?" Sera glared at him as he sat on the couch as if he were on his own estate. She sighed and ran her fingers through her hair as she sat across from him.

"That wasn't important," Sebastian replied, glancing at her belly to check for a baby bump but finding none. "I heard you had a miscarriage."

Sera could feel the vein in her forehead pulsing in anger. She took a deep breath before speaking,

"What is it to you? It's your fault, remember? If only you- She shut her mouth, not wanting to continue talking about what happened because she knew he wouldn't feel any guilt or regret about it

"Just tell me what the hell you want and leave. Sera added, crossing her arms. Sebastian looks at her, and she does appear to be in better shape. He may not be able to love her as much as he loves Samantha, but she is still a part of his life.

The incident made him feel guilty, but he had no regrets.

"My parents have been wondering about our marriage," he admitted, "And I can't tell them about it yet because I need more time... So, come home with me."

"WHAT?" Serp exclaimed, stunned. "Are you hearing yourself right now! You expect me to come home with you after what you did?"

"I know I've wronged you, but just stay home for a week and come to my father's birthday party with me because I can't disappoint him with the news of our divorce," he explained, "I won't bother you anymore after that."

"No," she said emphatically before standing up and walking to the kitchen to get her coffee, leaving Sebastian bemused.

"Come home with me or I'll ruin your parent's business; you know I'm capable of that, right?" he threatened as he followed her. Sera's hand trembled in rage; she was on the verge of hurling hot coffee in his face, but the thought of him ruining her parents' café made her stop.

"You..." she gritted her teeth. She couldn't believe that she had fallen in love with this man. What exactly did she see in him? Now, she's

questioning her life decisions.

She could just scare him back, but she was afraid of shocking his father too much and causing him to have a heart attack. which she couldn't afford to risk.

"Fine, I'll live with you for a week, but we'll live as if we never existed; don't talk to me, and don't ever come near me, or else I'll tell your father what you did."

She responded with a threat.

"All right. I'll be waiting for you tomorrow then. I'll ask Anji to clean the guestroom," he said, and she just rolled her eyes.

"Whatever," Sera said before walking over to the door and opening it for him. "Now, leave."

Sebastian looked at her as he walked away, and after closing the door, she leaned against it and rubbed her temples. wondering if this was the best decision.

THE NEXT DAY, the marketing department greeted her cheerfully, and she returned their smiles as if she hadn't just gone through the worst experience of her life.

"Are you all right now?" Jacob inquired as Sera sat at her desk. "We were all taken aback when you abruptly took sick leave." "Yeah, I'm fine now, is the manager already here?" she asked, changing the subject. Except for Emma and her family, her

III

Chapter 3

manager was also aware of her divorce and miscarried.

*The managers have an early meeting because the new director is arriving today," he replied, and she nodded. She wasn't aware that the company will have a new director.

"May I have everyone's attention for a moment? the manager asked as she entered the office. Everyone turned to look at her, but Sera's eyes widened when she noticed the man who had just walked in-olive skin tone and green eyes....

The person who took her to the hospital was her new boss!

"Let us welcome our new director Mr. Primo Valdemar" Everyone applauded and cheered as the new marketing director shook hands with everyone before smiling and turning to face her. Sera's heart starts beating faster, she doesn't have any idea what the hell is going on.

"I see you're doing well. Ms. Rodriguez," he said as they shook hands. She swallowed hard because he just called her by her maiden name.

"Y-yes, sir, thank you," she replied, and she didn't dare to speak further since she was so nervous. She still can't believe it.

Sera's mind was racing with questions and ideas about him. Who exactly is he? Is he acquainted with her? Was their meeting purely coincidental, or did he know something? Her mind is going blank as she tries to put all the puzzle pieces together, but she snapped at her thoughts when everyone applauded again.

The director just finished delivering a brief message to the marketing, and when he looked at her, she froze in place.

"Is it okay if I take Ms. Rodriguez? I'd like to have a little chat with her, he asked her manager and Sera could feel everyone's attention. She ignored them and just followed the director when he stepped out of the room

"U-uhm, sir...she paused, not knowing what to say to him. "I didn't get to thank you properly for taking care of me last-

He suddenly stopped walking and she halted behind him. She felt small standing close to him. Feeling intimidated by him. she gulped when he turned to face her.

"Then have lunch with me, he suggested, and her mouth hung open in surprise

"Ah, do you want me to treat you to lunch? Sera asked softly, unsure if she heard him correctly, but instead of responding he reached out his hand and gently patted her head. She stood frozen on the spot, perplexed.

"Come with me.

Sera went straight to the director's office, where the secretary led her inside.

"Take a seat; I'll just finish what I'm doing, and then we'll go out for lunch." Primo said as he worked. Sera's eyes wander to his office, which appears to have been recently renovated,

"How old are you, Ms. Rodriguez?" she flinched and turned to look at the director who was still signing documents.

"I'll be 27 this year," she told him, watching his expression change. He put his ballpen down and finally turned to face her.

"I see, you're six years younger, huh?" he said, confusing her.

"Uhm, sir, do you possibly know me? Even before you brought me to the hospital months ago?" she wondered aloud, as the thought had been

bugging her since this morning.

"I'm hungry; let's continue our conversation later," he said as he pushed his swivel chair back and stood from his seat. Sera did the same and followed him outside. She was a little uneasy about how people at the office stared at them, but it all went away when they finally got in his car.

"I-is it okay for you to treat me like this? You seem rather friendly toward me,"

"Do

you

want to know why?" he asked as the car came to a halt when the traffic light turned red.

III

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Chapter 3

"Yeah, I mean-Yes, sir," she replied.

"Hmm, because I have a payment to collect from you." The words made Sera shiver internally. It was as if he was going to make her pay with her own life. But no matter what kind of payment he intended to collect, she would give it without hesitation; after all, he saved her life, and she doesn't have a habit of going back on her words..

"Uhm, well, what do you want me to do?" she asked, unsure whether he was a decent man or not. Primo smirked and looked at her, his hand resting on the steering wheel and tapping it gently with his index finger.

"I want you as repayment for saving your life."

SEND GIFT

Chapter 4

"MS, RODRIGUEZ, Sera blinked a few times, trying to clear her mind and refocus on Primo. The fact that he wanted her as a repayment had yet to fully sink in.

"I'm sorry, sir. What were

you saying?" she asked, taking another bite of her meal. The atmosphere around them seemed to shift as Primo leaned in slightly, his voice lowering to a soft, intimate tone.

Do

you find my company boring? It seemed like your mind was elsewhere," he

said smoothly, watching her carefully. "I have no desire to push you into uncomfortable conversations, so if you don't like my presence-

"No, that wasn't it at all," Sera replied hurriedly, cutting him off before he could finish the thought. "I was just wondering what you meant by wanting me as the repayment?"

"Ah, was that bugging you?" he chuckled, his voice low and amused.

"What I mean is, I want you to be my girlfriend."

Sera choked on the water she had just sipped and quickly reached for her napkin, coughing and sputtering as she tried to regain her composure.

Primo, startled by her reaction, immediately reached out a hand to pat her back gently

"Are you alright?" he asked, genuine concern evident in his face. "I didn't mean to startle you"

Sera, still recovering from her coughing fit, looked up at him with wide eyes. She could see the worry etched on his face, and it softened her expression. She took a deep breath, finally regaining her voice.

"I-I'm fine just caught me off guard," she managed to say, her voice still slightly raspy. "But, um....about what you said earlier, Were you serious?"

"No, no, I was just kidding. I was trying to lighten the mood because you looked tense, he explained. "Sorry if that caught you off guard. I tend to have a strange sense of humor sometimes"

Relief washed over Sera as she let out a nervous laugh. She hadn't been sure how to respond to his initial statement, and the tension that had momentarily filled the air dissipated.

"Well, you certainly got me there, she admitted, her cheeks flushing slightly.

"But seriously, sir. I have so many things I want to ask but I don't even know where to begin."

"You can ask me anything you want, and I promise to answer honestly," he replied, leaning back in his chair. The private room they were in seemed to put him at ease, "And I'd actually prefer you considered me as a man who has an interest in you, not as your -boss."

"A-All right, then... Regarding my earlier question, did you possibly know me before our meeting two months ago?"

Primo hummed, his eyebrows raised; he couldn't believe she was finally within his grasp after all this time. She's changed a lot, much more mature than when they first met. Her hair was short and neatly trimmed below her shoulder, framing her face perfectly. Her amber eyes weren't as vibrant as

he remembered, but they were still lovely.

If he had kept his cool that night, he might have learned Sera's name and become friends with her. If that happened, she wouldn't have to go through such anguish. As ridiculous as it may sound, Primo fell in love with her the night she saved him. For the first time in years, her warmth made him feel alive, and she made him realize he wanted to live. It was just a shame he was having a mental breakdown at the time and couldn't pull himself together enough to ask her name.

His younger sister's death had too much of an impact on him.

He wished he could reveal that he had been eagerly searching for her after she had saved him for seven years, but what's the fun in that? He wants her to call him on her own. Besides, she might get creeped out and think he's nuts.

"To be honest, I can't quite put my finger on it, but there's something about you that feels familiar," he responded. Sera furrowed her brows, trying to make sense of Primo's cryptic response.

"Familiar? How?" she asked, her voice filled with anticipation.

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Primo smiled, his eyes twinkling with hidden knowledge.

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"Well, it's hard to explain," he replied, as though he was teasing her, "But, when I look at you, it feels like I've known you for longer than just two months. It's like there's a connection between us that runs deeper than our recent meeting

Sera's heart skipped a beat, her mind racing with possibilities. "But how is that possible? We've never crossed paths before. At least, not that I remember."

Primo's smile grew wider as he reached out and gently took the rice that stuck on the back of her hand, his touch sending a shiver down her spine.

"Memories can be tricky," he said, his voice soft and comforting.

"Sometimes they hide away, waiting for the right moment to resurface.

Perhaps our paths did cross in the past, but for some reason, the memories have been elusive."

A wave of emotions washed over Sera as she stared into Primo's eyes.

The mystery of their connection intrigued her, but at the same time, it left her with a sense of longing for answers. She couldn't shake off the feeling

that there was more to their story than what met the eye.

"Anyway, are you planning on seeking revenge for what your husband and his mistress did?" he asked, because he recalled Sera telling her unfortunate story during the ride.

"Of course," she declared, her grip on the knife unwavering as she swiftly sliced through the meat. I'm no angel, and one day, they will pay for what they've done to me. But for now, I'm just trying to make the best of my life and when an opportunity presents itself, I'll seize it"

"I'll help you in your vengeance. Primo said, stopping Sera from eating the steak. Her mouth remained open for a second before she tilted her head sideways in confusion.

"Why? Why would you help me?" Her face twisted with a mixture of bewilderment and perplexity as her gaze fixed upon him. After her husband's heart-wrenching betrayal, the mere notion of receiving assistance and kindness from someone she had never formed a close bond seemed like an absurd and twisted joke. Doubt crept into her mind, questioning the sincerity of his motives.

"I didn't go through the same situation, but I was betrayed as well, and I understand the desire to exact revenge on someone who wronged you." He explained, his expression unchanged.

"Okay, I'll take you up on that offer, Sera finally replied, her voice filled with newfound determination. "But back on the subject earlier, what do you mean when you said you want me as repayment?"

"It's just simple, I want you at my beck and call," he said, making sure his words reached her. Sera's mind was filled with astonishment and doubt as she processed Primo's proposition. She couldn't fathom why he would want her in such a way, and the uncertainty made her hesitate.

"I understand your reservations, but hear me out, Primo implored. looking deeply into her eyes as he was determined to persuade her. "I may not be able to explain it fully now, but there's something about you that draws me in. Your presence brings me a sense of calm and comfort, and I believe having you by my side will make a world of difference in my life."

"Besides. Don't you think this proposition is just what we need? It's a win-win. You'll inject some excitement into my mundane existence, while I become the perfect distraction for you to move on from your ex-husband." he reasoned out reasonably.

Sera took a deep breath, her doubts still swirling in her mind. Primo's proposition was perplexing, to say the least. Though his aura somewhat changed, she could feel no ill will coming off him as he gazed at her.

"When you begged me to save you, you said you'd do anything to repay, right? Now, I want you as my repayment, and I want you at my beck and call. You will be mine, always by my side when I need you." His words carried an air of possessiveness that sent a shiver down Sera's spine. She felt a mixture of astonishment and vulnerability, unsure of how to respond. Primo continued, his voice laced with authority.

"If you're still hesitating, you can lay down your conditions right here, and I'll accept them faster than a hummingbird fl**s.

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Chapter 4

its wings. But if you decide to decline..." he trailed off, rubbing his chin, "Well, let's just say I'll have to come to my conclusions about someone who doesn't keep their word."

Sera flinched slightly from the implication.

"All right," Sera began, her voice steady yet cautious. Even though she still had her doubts, she felt like she didn't have the right to refuse what he wanted. After all, it was her who told him that she'd repay him with anything. "First of all, whatever kind of relationship we have, it stays under lock and key. No one needs to know," she stated firmly, watching his reaction closely. Surprisingly, he merely hummed in response.

"Are you going to ask me to sleep with you?" she asked bluntly, causing Primo to cough caught off guard by her brazen inquiry. He cleared his throat, his eyes fixated on her as she took a sip of her water. Her nonchalant demeanor left him slightly amused, a twitch forming at the corner of his lips.

"I wasn't thinking of that when I said I wanted you at my beck and call, but you're giving me an idea," Primo's eyes gleamed as he smirked confidently. Sera blushed, trying not to let that affect her. She was just trying to confirm things so she could m***ally prepare herself.

"Don't worry, I won't ask you anything like that unless you want me to," he reassured, causing Sera to slightly relax her posture. She nodded, but he spoke again, "Now that we've come to an agreement, shall we seal it with a

kiss?”

Sera’s eyes widened as she watched Primo push back his chair and stand up to come towards her. She opened her mouth to say something, but her phone rang, causing her to avert her gaze and take out her phone, “Sorry, I’ll just answer it,” she said, her voice laced with panic as she excused herself and went outside. Primo chuckled, liking her reaction. He thought she was adorable, but the smile on his face vanished when he heard Sera’s voice arguing with someone outside.

“What are you doing here? Sera asked, her brow furrowed, seeing Sebastian’s face again after last night wasn’t pleasant, to say the least.

“I had a meeting, and you? Don’t tell me the reason you signed the divorce papers without hesitation is that you were cheating on me. Who were you with?” He stepped closer, which triggered Sera to slap him.

“I should have done it the night you divorced me, she gritted her teeth. Her hand clenched tighter, trying to calm herself down. “I signed the papers because you admitted to cheating on me and getting your ex pregnant, so don’t try to find fault with me,”

“You think I’ll believe that? You were head over heels for me and you gave up just like that? You didn’t even beg me not to divorce you,” Sera glared at Sebastian when he spoke those words. Her rage was making her hands tremble. He was so shameless that she now regrets agreeing to live with him, even if only for a week.

“What’s going on?” Primo interjected as he exited the room.

“Is that him? The man you’re cheating on me with?” Sebastian frowned, glaring at Primo who raised a brow at his ridiculous question.

“I’m not sure what you’re talking about, but I am the new director where Ms. Rodriguez works, and we’re just having a meeting.” He explained, “We don’t have any romantic relationship so, I’ll appreciate it if you’ll step back, we need to go back to the office.”

Sebastian clenched his fist and glared at Sera.

“We’ll continue this later at home, Serayah,” he said as he stormed out. Sera simply sighed and apologized to Primo.

“I’m sorry,”

“It’s fine, but are you okay?” he asked, and she simply nodded, embarrassed.

When they left the restaurant after settling the bill and they arrived at

Primo's car, he told her to go inside first because he needed to make a phone call. Sera nodded again and went inside, her nerves showing no sign of calming down.

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SEND GIFT

Chapter 4

Primo looked at her as he dialed the number of his right-hand man. He was angry but he remained calm and collected on the outside. He was on the verge of smashing Sebastian's face against the wall earlier, but seeing Sera's hand tremble reminded him that he needed to be patient.

"Caleb," he said as soon as the other line picked up.

"What's the matter? Why are you angry? Did I do something wrong?" Primo put his free hand in his pocket and turned around so, Sera wouldn't see his face.

"No, I need you to do something for me."

"What is it?"

"Sebastian Garcia, the CEO of Stronghold Builders. Dig everything you can find about him, his company, history, family, and friends. Everything worth knowing," he instructed.

"All right, anything else?"

Primo loosened his tie, his eyes gleaming with mischief and wickedness that could scare anyone who saw him

"That's all. I'll deal with him slowly and teach him a f**king lesson he would never forget,

Chapter 5

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THE TENSION IN THE CAR was uncomfortable as Primo and Sera drove back to the company, and the silence between them only accentuated it for Sera, who wasn't sure how to start another conversation with him after what happened at the restaurant.

"Can I ask a question?" Primo asked, tapping the steering wheel. She turned her attention toward his profile and noticed he was focused on the road.

“Yes, go ahead.” Sera nodded, though it was obvious what he was going to ask

“Was that your husband back there?”

“That’s correct, and I apologize again for what happened,”

“It’s fine..” He paused for a moment, unsure whether he’ll continue to ask questions. He doesn’t want to overwhelm her or come on too strong, but his curiosity is getting the best of him. He tapped the steering wheel again and spoke. “I hope I’m not being too nosy, but are you guys still living together?”

Sera flinched slightly at the question. She didn’t expect him to remember every detail of her conversation with Sebastian earlier so, she fiddled with her fingers and averted her gaze from him

“I left home when he asked for a divorce: it’s just that a situation occurred, so I needed to live with him again starting today,” she explained, despite the fact that she was under no obligation to tell Primo anything more about her personal life.

“I see,” he nodded, his face expressionless. Sera thought that it had been a long time since someone had shown such interest in her life, possibly because he saw how desperate she was for help when she was in trouble. She will be eternally grateful to Primo for saving her, but she will not let her guard down completely around him just yet, especially since she still has a lot of questions in her head.

Primo may appear to be harmless but trusting him was never something Sera can do easily. Just because she agreed to be at his beck and call doesn’t mean she has no doubts about what kind of man he is

Sera watched through the passenger window as Primo drove them back to the company silently. When they arrived at the parking lot, he parked near the elevator and turned off the engine before turning to face her

“I’m sure you don’t want to be seen with me again because it will cause gossip among the employees, so you can go first,” he said, and Sera immediately nodded while unbuckling her seatbelt.

“All right, sir, thank you for the meal. next time it will be my treat, she said politely as she exited the car and walked to the elevator. Primo just sat there watching her, and as soon as she was out of sight, he leaned against the steering wheel and stared at the passenger seat where Sera had been sitting.

A faint smile graced his lips.

He despises having someone beside him while driving, but Sera is a different story. It makes him feel all warm and fuzzy inside, and he can only hope that he will always feel that way when he spends time alone with her. It makes him more, and it's surreal that he's experiencing all of this for the first time.

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"We're just getting started, but my obsession with you is growing stronger now that you're finally within my grasp," he muttered under his breath, his eyes gleaming with excitement for what was to come.

"WHAT THE "Sera closed her mouth and clenched her fist as she read Sebastian's message just as she was about to cl her table.

clean

"What's wrong?" Jacob asked, concerned that she was in pain or having some sort of an attack. He leaned back and looked over at her cubicle to make sure she was okay. Sera shook her head and forced a smile.

"It's nothing," she said calmly.

"You sure? You don't feel sick, do you?"

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Chapter 3

"No, I just got a message; I'm not sick or in pain; in fact, I was about to curse," she laughed before pushing her chair back and standing up. She neatly arranges the papers on her desk and turns off her computer.

"Oh, are you leaving already? We're planning a small welcome back party for you," Lara, who was sitting in the cubicle in front of Sera's, said.

"Yeah, sorry, something came up and I needed to go home as soon as possible; I'll make it up to you guys tomorrow; let's have a meal together in the afternoon and drink after work," she said calmly, but her actions were frantic as she stuffed everything into her bag.

As she stepped out of the company, she took a deep breath, slowly exhaled, and resumed her walk toward Sebastian, who was waiting outside his car as if that was the most normal thing to do despite their situation

"What do you think you're doing?" she asked as she stopped in front of him. "I agreed to live with you on the condition that we ignore each other's presence, so why are you picking me upi we're still married?"

"Our divorce isn't finalized yet, so we're still legally married," Sebastian countered, causing Sera to scoff in disbelief. She took a deep breath and

exhaled loudly before using her fingers to tug her hair, ignoring the fact that Sebastian was watching her with the most intense stare. She was trying to stay calm and collected, but her heart was pounding wildly in fear and anger.

If she opened her mouth to argue, she knew it would quickly devolve into a shouting match, especially since she had a lot to

“Did you pack your things already?” Sebastian asked.

“I did,” she replied, annoyance evident in her voice. “Did you pick me up just to make sure Ed goes back to your place willingly?”

“What’s wrong with that?” Sera couldn’t help but roll her eyes when she heard his stupid question. His attitude since requesting a divorce has been so bad that the thought of living with him again is absurd. She had no idea he was so shameless, narcissistic, and selfish. She must have been blinded by her love for him to have missed these red flags while they were still together,

“Whatever! Let’s go inside. I don’t want my colleagues to see us standing here,” Sera suggested, reaching for the passenger seat’s door, but Sebastian stopped her by grabbing her wrist

“What?” she frowned, confused at what was going on.

“You can’t sit in the front because Samantha is already in the passenger seat. We had to go to the hospital earlier, and I promised her a ride home. I’ll drop her off at her place first, then we’ll go to yours to get your things.”

Sera’s eyes widened in disbelief as Sebastian’s words sank in. Samantha, his mistress, was sitting right there in the car with them the entire time. The audacity of it all was too much for her to handle. How could he expect her to share the same space with the woman he had betrayed her with?

A surge of anger coursed through her veins, fueling her decision to refuse to get inside the car. She stood her ground, crossing her arms defiantly and narrowing her eyes at Sebastian.

“You must be out of your mind if you think I’m going to sit in the same car as her,” Sera declared, her voice laced with anger and disappointment. She yanked her arm out of Sebastian’s grip forcefully.

“Don’t make things worse than they’re already going to be,” he said quietly. He reached over and grabbed her arm again. “Samantha’s sleeping, you can just ignore her presence so get inside the car.

“No,” Sera said, yanking her arm again, but this time, Sebastian refused to release her arm. Her face darkened in fury, and she glared at Sebastian

with pure disdain. She didn't even realize her hands were balled up into fists until now.

"Do you have no shame?" A familiar voice interrupted, causing both of them to turn their heads. Sera's eyes widened, seeing Primo approach them. It hadn't been long since the three of them had an encounter at the restaurant earlier, but it was happening again, and worse, it was in front of the company building where she worked, where some eyes were already drawn to them. "Is this how you treat women in public?"

Mon, 25 Dec

Chapter S

"What? Why do you keep interfering-*

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Sebastian, Sera interipted, gritting her teeth as though trying hard not to lose control. "He's my boss, watch your language. There's only so much I can take. Don't test my patience if you don't want me to drag your mistress out of your car and announce in front of these people your infidelity."

"Hah. Whatever! Make sure you go home tonight, or else you'll know what happened" He let go of her arm harshly, making her lose balance and stumble sideways, but Primo immediately caught her before she fell

"Are you okay?" he asked, watching as Sera nodded, humiliation coursing through her veins. She pushed Primo away from her gently and glared at Sebastian's car fiercely as he drove away as if she was the one who did something wrong

"Do you want me to do something with him?" Sera asked, still reeling from her confrontation with Sebastian. Primo's words caught her attention and she looked at him with a mix of anger and vulnerability in her eyes,

"Do something like what?" she tilted her head.

"Well, a red flag like him should be taken care of," he answered. "Maybe blinding him would be a good first step."

Sera felt shivers down her spine at the intensity of Primo's suggestion. Her eyes widened in shock and confusion, and the vulnerability in her gaze faded, replaced by cautious wariness

"Blinding him?" she repeated, her voice barely above a whisper. "That's. That's a bit extreme, don't you think?"

Primo quickly realized that he had let his emotions get the best of him and blurted out his dark thoughts. He composed himself and flashed a smile trying to lighten the atmosphere and stop Sera's growing uneasiness. She

laughed and scratched her cheek, thanking he must really have a strange sense of humor, but unbeknownst to her-he meant every word he had just uttered

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