Chapter 87 The massive bedroom felt oddly empty with just Marissa and Dominick inside .

Watching him lying there with his eyes closed , Marissas emotions were all over the place .

For the longest time , shed convinced herself she was irreplaceable in Dominicks life .

That feeling had only gotten stronger after his divorce from Paisley .

But these past four years , Paisley had tried every trick in the book to push their relationship past that invisible barrier , but nothing had worked .

Paisley had even gone as far as selling photos and videos of their meetings to paparazzi and gossip sites , desperately trying to paint this picture of them being super close .

All just to get people thinking she was Dominicks ancée .

Shed hoped to test Dominicks reaction with those posts , too .

But to her surprise , the news had barely hit the trending topics before Vanderbilt Groups PR department swooped in and shut it all down .

Before Paisley showed up , Marissa could tell herself comforting little lies.

Maybe Dominick was just protecting the companys image , keeping himself o the entertainment headlines .

Or maybe he just wanted to keep his private life under wraps .

But then .

Paisley came back .

Marissa had to admit it .

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Paisleys return had thrown her completely o balance , especially after that dig about how she still wasnt Dominicks wife after four whole years .

That one stung Now , watching Dominicks peaceful face as he rested , Marissa knew this was her shot .

Her chance to change everything .

Dom ! she called out softly .

Dominicks eyelids uttered but didnt open , his sleep undisturbed . Marissa let out a quiet breath of relief and leaned forward , drawing closer to him .

Her eyes traced over his features , now just inches away , and her breathing grew heavy and uneven .

Unable to resist , Marissa reached out with trembling ngers to undo the buttons of his shir .

As she inched closer , her crimson lips hovering over his .

In that split second , Dominicks eyes snapped open .

His gaze was razor sharp , almost predatory , the kind of instinctive alertness that kicks in when danger lurks nearby . Marissa froze , her lips just inches from his face .

Their eyes met , and she felt a chill run down her spine at the erce intensity in his stare .

Her ngers stayed frozen mid button , her whole body going rigid .

Only when recognition ickered across Dominicks face did that dangerous edge fade from his eyes .

Marissa ! His voice came out rough and low , still heavy with alcohol Marissa snapped back to reality at the sound of Dominicks voice .

She quickly straightened up , caught o guard .

He had been dead asleep just seconds ago , after all .

p an eye on you You had too much to drink , Marissa said , keeping her voice steady as she ashed her usual polished smile .

I stayed to keep Dominick sat up , feeling a cool draft across his chest .

Looking down , he realized half the buttons on his dress shirt were already undone .

I just wanted to help you change Marissa explained smoothly , her face a perfect mask of innocence .

Your shirt reeks of alcohol .

Marissa was playing it cool , like she was just being helpful , nothing more , nothing less

Dominick started rebuttoning his shirt , one by yone .

Go keeping it together enough to talk to her .

o get some rest , he said .

bn ne .

His voice came out soft , clearly still tipsy .

He was barely Come on , Dom .

Were family .

Marissa pressed , not backing down .

Of course ! should stay and take care of you The truth was that Marissa noticed how deeply he was sleeping and gured he couldnt do anything to her .

Her real plan was to snap some cozy photos and send them to Paisley .