

After All the Hurt, She Chose Herself

Chapter 9

The warm breath from Gideon's nostrils sent a flush creeping up the back of Aria's ear.

Before, she would have been thrilled by his touch.

But now, the thought that he was only doing this to get cord blood for Lilith made her want to vomit.

"Let go of me!"

Aria pushed against him with all her might.

But against Gideon, who was in peak physical condition, her struggles felt more like a prelude to intimacy.

Gideon scoffed, scooped her up, and tossed her onto the bed.

"If I didn't need you to have a baby, do you think I'd be willing to touch you?"

Even though she had resolved a thousand times to part ways with him, hearing Gideon humiliate and objectify her so bluntly still sent a sharp pain through her heart.

Aria struggled against his hold, forcing herself to sit up. A wave of intense humiliation washed over her, and she practically screamed, "Gideon, get out! Get away from me!"

But in the next second, Gideon pressed her back down onto the bed with even more force.

Pinning her wrists with one hand, he loomed over her. "For three years, you've been trying to consummate our marriage, all so you could produce an heir and get more money, right?"

"Now I'm giving you the chance. Undress yourself."

"Ten million per child. How many clients would you have to entertain to earn that? Don't be so ungrateful."

Her clothes were torn, exposing large patches of skin to the light, followed by the intrusive, scorching trail of his mouth against her skin.

No matter how desperately Aria fought, it was useless. "Gideon, this is marital rape!"

"If you dare do this to me today, we're done! We are done!"

Her wrists were bound with his tie, her legs pinned by his lean, powerful waist.

Gideon lifted her head and leaned in to kiss her. "Between us, do you really think you have the right to call a stop?"

"Just be a good girl and have a baby. Everything will be fine."

Aria's wrists were chafed raw from her struggles, but against the absolute disparity in strength, she was powerless. Her eyes were red, and her heart ached terribly.

She had joined Gideon's company when she was twenty-one. Back then, he had started the company to prove himself to the Evernight family.

He had told her, "Aria, sticking with me will be the best choice you ever make."

The dashing, ambitious young man had walked into her heart at that moment.

She had known Gideon for five years and had once believed that being with him was the best choice of her life.

How had they ended up like this?

-

Afterward, Aria lay motionless on the bed, her breath coming in ragged gasps as the weight of the humiliation crushed her.

Gideon pulled on his clothes, his posture still straight, his expression already clear and devoid of any lingering passion. "A doctor will be here soon to examine you. From now on, you'll have regular check-ups until you're pregnant."

Watching his cold, heartless back, tears slid silently from the corners of her eyes.

Suddenly, she called out his name softly. "Gideon."

Gideon turned to look at her.

Meeting his dark pupils, Aria forced a smile. She turned her head to stare at the ceiling, her voice so light it was as if she were talking about someone else.

"Don't bother the doctor."

"I participated in a medical trial a long time ago. My uterus was damaged. I can never get pregnant."

As she spoke, she turned back to look at him, a faint, light smile on her lips.

“I can’t get pregnant. I can’t have a baby. And I can’t save your precious Lilith.”

“Are you satisfied now, Gideon?”