



Chapter 78

Dominic nodded and drove toward Clearwater Ville. It took less than an hour to get there from Skyline City. He turned on the music and lit a cigarette.

Sitting in the passenger seat, Cynthia watched him with a flicker of envy in her eyes. "Feels good to be alive."

Dominic smiled. "Life always comes with birth and death. Some people just leave earlier, some a little later." 1

Cynthia sighed softly. "If I could choose, I'd rather leave later. Ideally, die of old age in peace."

"Nice thought. Maybe in your next lifetime."

Her eyes brightened. "There's a next lifetime? You think I'll be reborn?"

Dominic shook his head. "That's not something I can confirm."

She looked disappointed. "I thought since you could see me, you'd know a lot more. By the way, what are you exactly? Why can you see... that kind of thing?"

Dominic glanced at her and teased, "If I said I was an exorcist, would you believe it?"

"Huh?" Cynthia stared at him, then slowly shook her head. "You don't really look like one."

Dominic chuckled. "Exactly. So why overthink it? The fact that I can see you is enough."

They chatted idly as the car sped down the highway. Then Dominic



frowned. In the rearview mirror, a black SUV caught his eye. It looked familiar—he could've sworn he'd seen it earlier near Blossom Elementary.

Could someone be following me? The thought made his chest tighten.

Could it be Jessica?

He dismissed the idea almost immediately. That young woman was reckless and never subtle. If she wanted to confront him, she'd do it head-on, not by tailing him.

If not her, then who?

Suspicious, Dominic stayed alert.

When he exited the highway near Queenshire Town, the same SUV followed close behind. That confirmed it. Without hesitation, he pulled over to the side of the road.

"Hey, what's wrong?" Cynthia asked.

Dominic didn't answer. He got out and watched as the SUV slowed and approached. Raising a hand, he signaled for the driver to stop.

After a brief hesitation, the vehicle rolled to a halt, and the window lowered.

The driver, a middle-aged man in sunglasses, smiled politely. "Hey there, man. Trouble with your car or something?"

Dominic shook his head. "You're tailing me."

The driver's expression shifted. "What? Are you kidding me? Why would I tail you?"



Dominic's voice stayed calm. "Autumn told you to keep an eye on me. What's your intention?"

Sweat gathered on the man's forehead. He waved his hands quickly. "I don't even know Miss Garcia—"

He trailed off mid-sentence.

'Miss Garcia.' Dominic's lips curved into a faint smile.

Realizing he'd slipped, the man sighed. "Miss Garcia means no harm. I'm her bodyguard. She's been busy with family matters, so she asked us to follow you in case you ran into trouble. We're just here to help."

Dominic raised an eyebrow, understanding at last. Autumn still remembered the favor he was owed. But with her family dealing with her elder's passing, she couldn't come herself. Thus, she sent help instead.

He thought for a moment, then offered the man a cigarette. "Can you get in touch with her?"