

You'll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow

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As expected, Clarissa called Jane about terminating the contract not long after that. Even if Jane had proposed more favorable terms, Clarissa was determined to quit.

At the end of the conversation, no other words were said.

Clarissa put down the phone and sighed softly.

Meanwhile, Ellie popped a grape into her mouth after a round of video games.

"Why do you worry so much? You're still so young. Aren't you relieved that you've terminated your contract?"

"Well, It just feels wrong to leave after working there for so long. Besides, I haven't even thought of my next workplace when Ms. White asked."

"Why don't you set up your own studio instead?"

"But I find it troublesome to promote and sell the copyrights myself."

Ellie thought for a while and suggested, "You can easily find yourself a manager to take care of it while you are responsible for writing."

Clarissa smiled but was stuffed with grapes by Ellie. "Don't eat it yet; let me take a picture."

She came for Ellie's new product photoshoot today, but that girl took a candid shot of her biting a grape instead.

Clarissa leaned over to take a look. "What is this? I look horrible."

Ellie replied, "What do you know? You look cute and kinda sexy like this. Well, I'm using it anyway."

“Really?” After staring at the picture that Ellie sent her, she still couldn’t understand why her friend said that.

After the photoshoot session, Ellie complained, “You haven’t told me where you moved to! I couldn’t find you when I went there.”

Although Clarissa felt awkward when she recalled that matter, she had already come up with an excuse.

“Actually, I’m staying at Tyson Corporation’s apartment.”

“What?” Ellie was shocked.

Clarissa blushed. “I met Uncle Matthew when I was working at Tyson Corporation. He took care of me since you’re my friend and even let me move into the apartment. Also, I wanted to avoid my mom, so I moved there.”

“Oh, I see. Why are you shy about it? Uncle Matt is so nice to you.”

“I just felt like I’m causing him too much trouble, and it’s so embarrassing.”

“What’s the big deal? You can treat him like your family because of me, so don’t worry about it.”

The word “family” made Clarissa blush fiercely, but Ellie didn’t think much about her expression and continued taking a few more pictures of the bashful, natural beauty.

During the meal, Clarissa’s phone rang. She tried to answer it calmly in front of Ellie instead of the balcony to avoid suspicion.

On the other end, Matthew had just reached Zen Highlands after work. He tugged at his tie, unbuttoned his collar with his slender fingers, and casually asked, “Are you and Ellie done with work?”

Clarissa had told him about coming to Ellie’s place.

She responded cautiously, “Yes, I’m eating.”

When he heard her careful tone, he knew that she was afraid of Ellie finding out about him.

He sat down with his lips curled up slightly and asked naughtily, "Are you scared?"

Clarissa wanted to roll her eyes. Idiot! Isn't it obvious enough?

However, she just lowered her head, poked at her food and whispered, "You know I am."

His deep chuckle caused her ears to redden and her heart to flutter.

"What are you afraid of? She'll find out sooner or later."

"Well, not now."

Matthew knew she didn't want to go public with their relationship, so he didn't push her. Besides, they just started dating, and it was still too early for that.

"All right, not now. But Clare, I haven't eaten yet."

When Clarissa heard this, she thought: Is he trying to act cute?

Wanting to say something, she swallowed her words when she met Ellie's gaze, so she only responded briefly. "All right, enjoy your meal. Bye!"

She couldn't wait to hang up the phone for fear that Matthew would say anything more.

As soon as she put down the phone, she panicked when Ellie stared at her with a million questions written on her face.

"Wh-why are you looking at me like that?"

Ellie sneered, "Who was it?"

"...A friend."

"What friend? Male or female? Well, it must be a man since you're acting so weird. Is it the same man who called last time at the balcony? Are you dating him? Is he your boyfriend?"

Her string of questions left Clarissa at a loss for words.

"Don't lie to me. I won't forgive you for hiding something like that from me!"

She helplessly nodded. "Yes, he's my boyfriend."

"Really! Who is it? Is it Ryler, your childhood playmate?"

She denied, "No, I've never even considered him."

Ellie looked at her curiously. "Oh? Then he must be a very extraordinary man. Quick, tell me what he's like!"

Clarissa hesitated and was at a loss for words.

"Why? Is it a shameful thing?"

"No, I just don't know how to word it. We just started dating, and we're not official yet, so I'm afraid I can't let you meet him still."

Ellie raised her eyebrows and twitched the corners of her mouth. "Well, can't you tell me about him if I can't meet him?"

Clarissa tried to be cautious with her words not to make Ellie overthink. "He's older than me, very overbearing, well-off, and impressive."

"Only these?"

Clarissa smiled awkwardly. "I really don't know how to describe him."

"What is his personality like? Does he treat you well? If he's like what you said, I can help you investigate if he has a secret girlfriend or he just wants a sham marriage."

"Um...I'm sure he is not married. However, I didn't know his personality that well at first, but can't I like him just because he's handsome?"

Ellie nodded approvingly. "Of course! He has to be good-looking!"

"Well, that's all for now. I'll introduce him to you later, all right?"

Ellie felt that Clarissa was acting peculiar when she only smiled and went silent, so the girl frowned. "Are you hiding something from me?"

"Kind of, but I can't tell you now. Don't be angry with me, alright?"

"I won't force you if you don't want to. I just want you to be more careful so that you won't be taken advantage of."

Clarissa grinned. "Nah, he's much wealthier than I am, so it should be the other way round."

"Wow, you sounded so proud of him. He must be impressive."

"Yeah, he is."

Ellie was amazed by Clarissa's happy expression.

Given her good looks, she has been pursued by countless guys since college, but I've never seen her this excited before—how can I not be surprised? I'm even more curious about her boyfriend now.

...

Clarissa had always believed that people were good by nature, and she had never really met evil ones all these years except the Garretts. However, she had never expected Twilight Company to betray her.

The company actually had the nerve to hand the draft of her new writings over to Elsa instead.

She didn't know about this until one of her loyal readers told her that Elsa's new novel was identical to hers.

She only posted a few pages of her new writings online but didn't update them because of publishing reasons. However, she did send some of them to her most loyal readers. She even sent Jane most of her drafts and ideas.

People were unpredictable indeed. When she found out about it, Elsa's new novel had already been highly publicized by the company, and her contents and ideas were richer than

hers. If Clarissa wanted to sue for copyright infringement, she wouldn't get anywhere without evidence.

She knew that Twilight Company intentionally did this to her, and anger couldn't describe her emotions right now. She only felt pained as if her heart had been ripped out of her chest.

As expected, Jane denied that she had ever obtained Clarissa's drafts.

The betrayal was the most painful part for her.

She didn't know if she could use her online posts as evidence. Nonetheless, since the company had strongly promoted Elsa, they could make up various excuses, such as Clarissa's work was just a point of reference. They could even make slight changes to Elsa's novel. In an era in which plagiarism was especially difficult to define, Twilight Company had really made her suffer by being unable to do anything about it.

In addition to plagiarism, Jane even informed Clarissa to participate in the author interview held by the company as the employees' attendance was compulsory. However, the news was released without her consent. They even announced their collaboration with Justin Yates Studio without revealing the person behind this partnership. Still, Clarissa had a feeling that it was because of her book titled Princess.

They fully exploited her and even disregarded their former relations.

From the moment she had begun her career until gaining popularity and fans, she collaborated with Twilight Company well and had never been in such a situation. She couldn't suppress her grievances and burst into tears.

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"Oh, what's the matter? Are you crying because of heartbreak?"

When Amanda saw Clarissa crying, she not only didn't comfort her but sneered at her and even wished that everyone could see this scene.

"Oh, what's the use of crying? Kenny from our department is still fond of you; why don't you be with him instead?"

Clarissa wiped away her tears after hearing Amanda's nasty words as she couldn't ignore them anymore.

"It's alright if you are dumped. Kenny won't mind your past with the rich guys..."

"Amanda!"

Clarissa lost her temper. It was unlike her to argue with others, but she couldn't stand it anymore. Besides, she was only human, not to mention she was in an extremely foul mood at that moment.

She retorted rudely, "Do you really have to slander around? Who told you that I hooked up with rich guys? Why don't you be with Kenny instead if he's such a nice guy? Don't think that I don't know what kind of people both of you are."

"Clarissa, how dare you be this rude to your senior? Do you have a death wish?"

"Yes, this is how I talk! By the way, do you even look like a senior? All you do is gossip behind others' backs, make false accusations, and take advantage of others. You'll be kicked out of Tyson Corporation sooner or later for someone lousy like you."

"You b*tch! How dare you say that?" Smack!

Amanda was so enraged that she wanted to slap Clarissa, but Clarissa attacked first.

The crisp sound of smacking stunned everyone.

After a brief silence, Amanda pounced on Clarissa like a crazy woman, and Clarissa was tugged by the hair and beaten up.

The office turned chaotic. After the colleagues had separated them, Mr. Gardner rebuked them with a somber expression. Then, it was up to Joyce to decide what to do with them.

Amanda, who kept crying, gained everyone's sympathy, but Clarissa put on a sullen expression instead. Hence, it was evident that the majority had sided with Amanda.

Amanda was a senior employee and was friends with many other colleagues. Although Clarissa was good-looking and popular, she rarely attended the company gatherings and appeared to be an arrogant person, so she was disadvantaged in this situation.

“Joyce, I was only expressing my concern when I saw Clarissa crying so pitifully. But not only was she ungrateful, but she also attacked me with ugly words and even hit me. Joyce, since we knew each other for a long time now, you know that I can be careless with words but without any evil intentions, and you know that I’m popular in the company...”

Joyce scowled as she understood what Amanda meant.

She looked at Clarissa with her usual stern expression. “Clarissa, you’ve crossed the line by using violence. This is a workplace, not a playground—don’t bring in your emotions. However, I can see that you’re slacking too, and the company doesn’t need anyone like you. Like I told you before, you’re still under probation, but you don’t have to come to work anymore since this happened.”

Clarissa knew that she was fired.

But Amanda, on the other hand, looked smugly at the beautiful slap print on Clarissa’s face.

“Any last words?” Joyce asked.

Clarissa only looked at them. What else can I say?

“All right, if there’s nothing else, I will inform the human resources department about you leaving today.”

When Clarissa turned around and left, Amanda smirked evilly.

No one came to comfort Clarissa when she was packing her things, and she immediately felt that humanity was frighteningly cruel.

Since she came and went without bringing anything with her, she left Tyson Corporation quickly without her remaining salary.

After returning to the apartment, she called Jane, but the chief editor didn’t answer.

Clarissa smiled coldly. So what if I can’t prove Elsa’s plagiarism? I can’t let myself be bullied.

She immediately posted the incident between her, Elsa, and the Twilight Company online.

As she only had nearly a million fans, this wouldn't go viral, but it was enough to make trouble for Elsa.

After that, she posted her draft and part of the content saved on her computer.

Sure enough, Twilight Company was prepared for it. They soon attacked her inconsistency and lack of evidence and charged her for adding things. They even accused her of being ungrateful toward the company by quitting her job.

To rub salt in her wounds, they blamed her for selfishly claiming the benefits of the company's collaboration with Justin Yates Studio.

They also found out scandals such as her hooking up with a famous actor in the film studio a long time ago and had gone through a scene for the award-winning actress to shoot a television series for her work.

How can I win over those die-hard fans by myself?

She was attacked by nasty comments all at once and was baffled by the ugliness of humanity. In fact, Twilight Company even twisted the truth about the car accident.

They claimed that Clarissa abandoned her friends after the accident just to hook up with a certain Mr. Harrison from D City, and it was said that he had cheated countless women. Since Clarissa had hooked up with him and had benefitted from him, she left her company to build her career.

The internet was a vast world, but those who hide behind the scenes were often the easiest to be incited by others.

Clarissa's comments and posts under Twilight Company's column were bombarded fiercely by haters and the authors who held grudges against her.

So Clarissa only hid in her house and raged with anger upon seeing those hate comments.

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Since it was the assistant of Justin Yates Studio who managed the official account, she was enraged by the false accusation of her relationship falling apart with Twilight.

Nonetheless, she was still affected by the hate comments directed to her social media account, not to mention that they framed her as an ungrateful person.

Therefore, she made a statement directly through the official account in a rage: First of all, I will not intervene in the matter between Twilight Company and @clarissa.quigley. Please do not sensationalize it by using Director Yates's name. Secondly, the collaboration between Justin Yates Studio and Twilight Company was transparent and had nothing to do with @clarissa.quigley.

Although the statement sounded neutral, it was apparent that Justin Yates Studio had intended to work with Twilight Company instead of @clarissa.quigley. Thus, it overturned the accusation of Justin's intentions of using @clarissa.quigley's novel.

Why would Director Yates use my novel if others thought that they are better than me?

After the post, Clarissa became the viral topic, and it made Justin rise as the pride of the nation and a star in showbiz. Moreover, since the post was from Justin Yates studio, it was as if Justin posted it and had nothing to do with @clarissa.quigley. Hence, Clarissa became notorious.

This disgusting b*tch deserves death.

Her whole family should perish...

This slut even dared to sleep around.

I'm @clarissa.quigley's reader. She used to show off the number of men she slept with, and they're all from well-to-do backgrounds. She even slept with the president of the production company, and this must be why her lousy writing could be adapted to film.

I can prove that @clarissa.quigley is a slut. Since she's ugly, she never posted pictures of herself. After getting rich from sleeping with other men, she went through plastic surgery and planned to reveal her post-surgery look after breaking up with them to appear as a pretty writer. Let's see how she can survive now that she's been found out!

Boycott @clarissa.quigley!

#Boycott@clarissa.quigley

The overwhelming malice was all directed at Clarissa, which was more severe than last time in the studio. She was trembling fiercely, but she had nowhere to vent.

How can human beings be this cruel?

This was her last post after so many malicious attacks. After that, she turned off her mobile phone, disconnected the Internet entirely, packed her things, and left D City directly to return to her hometown.

Her grandmother, Catherine was shocked to see her.

“Why didn’t you tell me you’re coming back?”

Clarissa smiled thinly and shook her head. “I’m a little tired. Grandma, I’ll go rest first. I’ll wake up by myself, so you don’t have to get me.”

Without waiting for her grandmother’s answer, she went to her room, locked the door, laid on the bed with her head covered, and cried softly.

Feeling something was up, the old lady sat down and sighed.

Don’t I understand my granddaughter? She will suffer everything on her own and not tell anyone. After crying, she’ll move on with a smile.

This is my strong granddaughter, but there’s still no one to protect and love her.

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Clarissa had slept until the next afternoon.

When she woke up, she laid down blankly for a while before realizing where she was.

Hearing voices outside, she got up, looked at her crumpled clothes, changed into a T-shirt and shorts, and walked out of the room.

Catherine was talking softly to the nanny while kneading dough.

When she saw Clarissa coming out, the old lady acted as if nothing happened and smiled. "You've woken up? You must be hungry after sleeping for so long. I'm making dumplings with Julia; they're ready in no time. I also made your favorite pancakes! Eat as much as you want."

Clarissa's eyes were a little swollen, and her hair was messy, but she was unaware of it as she didn't look in the mirror. She sat in front of her grandmother and hugged her coquettishly.

"Grandma, I love you so much. You're the best grandmother in the world."

The old lady laughed and poked Clarissa's forehead with her flour-stained fingers.

"Come on. I become the best grandmother only when I feed you? Look at how messy you look! Go wash up quickly."

"I don't want to! I'm still your baby even if I look like a mess."

"You..." Catherine smiled helplessly. "Alright, don't act like a baby when you're already a big girl. Go wash up, and you can eat."

"Alright." Clarissa pecked her grandmother on the cheek. After a shower, she felt refreshed.

After helping Catherine with the dumplings, Julia fried them while Clarissa and her grandmother sat in the living room and listened to the music playing from her phone while munching on snacks.

One of the old lady's habits was listening to music, and Clarissa hummed along somewhat inaccurately to it.

Her grandmother suddenly asked, "Didn't you say you had a boyfriend? Did you come back because you fought with each other? Or something else?"

Her chewing stopped, and she shook her head.

"No, we didn't fight. It has nothing to do with him; it's because of something at work."

She only remembered that she didn't inform Matthew about leaving D City in a hurry and was worried that he would be angry at her for turning off her phone.

"Did you tell him that you came back?"

Clarissa shook her head truthfully. "No."

The old lady couldn't help complaining, "Sigh. Can you hurry up and tell him already? Don't make him worried about you. I know that you tend to hide in your room whenever something happened, but you're a big girl now, and you'll live the rest of your life with your loved one when I'm gone..." She sighed. "Clare, Grandma knows that you're used to being independent, but you don't always have to do so. It's all my fault, I'm so old, and I can't help you with anything..."

Clarissa almost cried when she saw her grandmother like this.

"Grandma, don't say that...You're making me feel bad. You have to stay with me for the rest of my life. You can't leave..."

"Alright, don't cry. Just go and call your boyfriend."

She then reluctantly took out her phone and called Matthew but was disappointed when no one answered.

"Grandma, he might be busy right now. I'll try again tonight."

The old lady did not force her, nor did she ask what happened as she knew Clarissa wouldn't tell her anything.

She had never shared her inner feelings all these years but only acted like a warm and strong girl. Nevertheless, the old lady knew that she was fragile, so she only sighed and let it go.

After having an early lunch, Clarissa walked with her grandmother downstairs to the square. Then, they went home after she watched the old lady join her friends for a dance session until around 8 p.m.

When they saw a black car parked in front of the entrance of the apartment, Catherine circled it and complained, "Whose car is this? Which unscrupulous guy dared to block the road?"

Clarissa's eyelids twitched at the sight of the car.

"Gr-Grandma, you can go up first because I want to take a stroll. Don't you always nag me for not exercising? Let me run two more laps in the area, alright?"

"Two laps? Alright, just stay nearby and don't go too far. It's dangerous at night."

"I know. You can go up first."

After her grandmother went upstairs, Clarissa stood by the car.

For a long time, nothing happened.

Is it a mistake?

Clarissa walked to the front of the car and looked at the license plate. It was him indeed.

Then, she knocked on the rear car window, but the driver got off instead of the man in the back seat.

"Ms. Quigley."

The driver greeted politely and left.

She sighed softly, opened the back door, and got in.

Matthew was indeed in the car. When she got in, he didn't face her and only showed his side profile.

She then knew that he was upset with her for leaving without letting him know.

She explained simply, "I was fired from the company during the day and had a bad encounter, so I came back. I'm sorry that I didn't tell you in advance."

The man finally turned to face her and gazed at her sharply with his dark, cold eyes.

“That’s it?”

She was already in a bad mood as she suppressed her emotions, and his overbearing presence frustrated her even more.

“That’s it.”

Clarissa looked away without further explanations.

However, his gaze grew colder, and the atmosphere became suffocating.

Not only did he not comfort her, but his frosty attitude had also annoyed her, and she lost her patience. “Thank you for dropping by to see me. It’s getting late; my grandmother is waiting for me. Goodnight.”

Clarissa immediately got off the car, slammed the door, and went back.

Meanwhile, Matthew’s expression darkened, and his gaze was exceedingly dangerous.

...

Clarissa’s mood went from bad to worse when she got back.

Since she didn’t want to worry her grandmother, she thought of making up an excuse about working on coding in her room, but she didn’t feel like actually doing it.

She was more afraid of turning on her computer as she was traumatized by the hate comments and couldn’t bear the sight of her painstaking efforts being trampled over.

She couldn’t understand why the same readers who liked her work could turn their backs on her and insult her.

Such encounters certainly did not help her face the music. Besides, her insomnia was probably because of sleeping too much in the day and as well as her troubles.

Since her insomnia was too tormenting, she decided to go for a jog instead. Then, she bought breakfast for both her and her grandmother.

While Clarissa was isolated from the world for several days, her phone rang when she turned it on.

It was from Ellie.

“Your problem has been settled. When will you return to D City?”

“Settled?”

Ellie sighed. “Clare, I know that you’re strong enough to handle it alone, but you should at least defend yourself!”

‘How can I go against millions of Netizens?’

This was what she hated the most.

“I’m not talking about them—they would’ve contradicted themselves if you had clarified it. Besides, your target should be those jerks in Twilight Company.”

“Ellie, you might not know about this, but plagiarism is really difficult to define, and I might not even win the lawsuit. I...”

“That’s because you didn’t find the right person. How did I not know that you’re such a loser before? You really pissed me off by running away and suffering like that.”

“I’m sorry that I’ve worried you.”

“Worried? I knew you must have run home, but I don’t care. However, they have clarified it online, and Mr. Graham has agreed to help and promised to destroy that Snowy b*tch from Twilight Company to pay you back. Besides, Justin had also fired the one who posted it off his own bat and had defended you online. If you check it out again, you’ll see that they’ve turned to criticize Twilight now.”

Nevertheless, this did not cheer Clarissa up.

She thanked her weakly, "Ellie, I'm sorry for always causing you trouble. Help me thank Director Yates as well. I'm very grateful to both of you."

"Don't thank me; thank Uncle Matt because he's the one who asked Mr. Graham and Mr. Justin for help. Uncle Matt even solved it as soon as I reached out to him. And you don't have to be so formal with me!"

Clarissa fell silent. "Help me thank Uncle Matthew."

"Alright. But why are you still so upset?"

"Nothing. I'm just tired."

"Oh. I'll let you rest then. And come back soon! We'll destroy Twilight Company and the copycat together."

"Alright, we'll talk later."

After hanging up, Clarissa still didn't look up the comments online.

On the other end, Ellie was deep in thoughts while holding her phone.

After a while, she turned and looked at Matthew.

"Oh, Uncle Matt, Clare wanted to thank you for your help."

Ellie had just met Mr. Graham and was still in Matthew's office.

However, Matthew's expression became more aloof after hearing Ellie's words.

He sneered, "How perfunctory of her to let you thank me in her place."

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Matthew seemed irritated.

Ellie hurriedly explained, "Uncle Matt, it's not like that. She's still in her hometown right now; she'll thank you properly when she returns to D City. Sigh...do they have to be this cruel to her just because she left? If they parted ways peacefully, Clare would definitely be grateful to them. Now both Clare and Twilight are in trouble. Fantastic. But most importantly, Clare is innocent in all this!"

This is so weird and evil that Twilight Company had asked for the Netizens' help to make it viral. Does this matter even more than celebrity news?

She was still worried even though they had found out that it was Twilight Company's fault. However, it became worse because of the assistant's recklessness at Justin Yates Studio and because of Justin's influence himself.

"She's a rather good troublemaker too."

He sounded as if he was disdainful of the trouble Clarissa caused.

Ellie quickly defended her, "Uncle Matt, Clare is not that kind of person. She hates conflict and avoids them as much as possible. You have no idea how she shuns away from asking others for help and always tries to be independent. I'm the one who reached out to you this time, and I'm the one who begged her for your help previously, so please understand this."

The man raised his eyebrows while his dark gaze gleamed.

"Always tries to be independent?"

"Yeah. Since she only had her grandmother growing up, she became very independent and strong, which can sometimes be annoying. I just wish that she would be brave enough to ask for help. However, I'm used to it after being friends with her, and I'm always the one who forced her to do things. Otherwise, she would never speak up. I'm her best friend after all."

He was deep in thought, and Ellie didn't explain further. "I have to go, Uncle Matt. Please be understanding towards her for my sake. We'll thank you properly as soon as she returns to D City. Bye!"

After Ellie had left the office, the man still didn't react.

Then, he took out a cigarette, lit it, and stood in front of the French windows. Squinting his eyes, he puffed out the smoke, which rose into the air and drifted away.

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A few days later, Clarissa finally went online and saw that the matter had slowly subsided.

In fact, Twilight's official website was filled with apologetic comments, and Elsa had admitted her plagiarism. But what moved Clarissa the most was Justin's post.

He expressed his appreciation for @clarissa.quigley and desired to collaborate with her. However, he would only discuss it with her after she had terminated the contract with Twilight to show his support toward her and not the company.

Since he had disabled his comments, many still sent apologies directly to his account.

Nonetheless, their apologies were still too late for Clarissa.

It was then she had only seen Jane's several calls and texts during that period, so she finally returned the chief editor's call.

Jane answered shortly afterward and apologized quickly, "Clarissa, I'm sorry, please forgive us. I had no choice as it was Mr. Johnson's orders. Please forgive me for the sake of our friendship."

"You should be the one letting me go instead, Jane."

"Clarissa, we're sincerely sorry. Would you please ask your lawyer to withdraw the charges? Mr. Johnson is blaming me for everything, but I'm innocent..."

"Charges?" Clarissa was shocked.

"Yes. Please, Clarissa, we didn't know any better. Please have mercy on us, and we'll compensate you when you withdraw the charges."

Clarissa then had an idea of the reason behind why the charges were made.

Although she didn't know much about Hector, the attorney, he must be exceptional to work at Tyson Corporation. She remembered Ellie telling her that he had never lost any lawsuits and could make Twilight go bankrupt if he wanted to.

"Clarissa? Clarissa? Are you there?" She asked carefully to avoid offending her again.

"Ms. White, I'm still in my hometown, and everything is taken care of by the attorney. I'll talk to him when I return to D City."

"What do you mean?"

Clarissa sighed. "I'm not a merciless person. Besides, Twilight has helped me a lot all these years. I'll play by ear when I return. Don't worry."

"Alright, thank you so much, Clarissa, thank you..."

When Clarissa hung up, her grandmother asked, "Are you returning?"

"Yes, Grandma, but I'll be back after settling this matter."

"What for?" Catherine became upset. "You can't leave your boyfriend just because you settled your work matters. Didn't you say there's nothing wrong between you two? What do you mean by that? You finally got one, and I like him, so don't be stubborn! Clary, don't all the young couples call each other for a long period? Why didn't you call each other at all? That's so unusual!"

Since her grandmother became anxious about her boyfriend, she swallowed her words.

"Alright, I won't come back. I'll be engaged to him, okay?"

"That's for the best!"

"..." Clarissa was speechless.

The next day, she packed her things and flew back to D City.

When she got back to her apartment, everything was the same as how she left it.

Without a second thought, she cleaned the whole apartment thoroughly and ordered some takeout.

In the afternoon, she contacted Hector and went to his office.

After the meeting, Clarissa filed to withdraw the lawsuit in the end.

Hector was not surprised and agreed to her request, but he would still ask Twilight and Elsa for compensation and a public apology.

She had no other objections about it. After the deal was done, she left and headed to Ellie's studio.

Ellie didn't say much as the matter was resolved.

So Clarissa stayed there for the whole night as she wanted to avoid her boyfriend.

"Clare, you're free tonight, right?"

Pulled back to her senses by Ellie's question, Clarissa shook her head. "Yes, I'm free."

"Good. Let's go eat and meet up with Mr. Justin."

"Director Yates?"

"That's right. I know that you admire him. Besides, both of you can talk about the partnership."

So they went to Skylight Restaurant. Clarissa originally thought that Ellie had arranged for her to meet Justin, but she felt awkward as soon as she stepped into the private lounge.

Matthew and Justin were talking to each other, and even Jeremy and Yarick were there. Clarissa felt shocked by the scene.

"Mr. Jeremy, are you here to join in the fun?"

There was a flash across Jeremy's eyes, and he smiled. "Of course!"

Then, he looked at Clarissa and greeted her warmly, "Hi, Ms. Quigley! It's been a while!"

She smiled weakly with an uneasy look. Before she could speak, Ellie had put an arm around her.

"Don't be shy, Clare! You know the rest of them anyway. This is Mr. Justin, a good friend of Uncle Matt's. It was thanks to him that he helped resolve this matter. Justin, didn't you say that you admire Clare? Talk to her yourself!"

Justin turned to look at her while Matthew elegantly sipped on his drink. However, Clarissa was staring at Matthew before meeting Justin's gaze, but Justin grinned teasingly at her.

She instantly flushed with embarrassment. Lowering her voice, she spoke, "Nice to meet you, Director Yates."

"The pleasure is mine, Ms. Quigley."

Their formal attitude didn't raise Ellie's suspicion, and Clarissa didn't know if Matthew meant it like that or it was normal among them.

Nonetheless, Clarissa was very grateful.

Clarissa glanced at Matthew again and spoke bashfully, "Long time no see, Uncle Matthew."

As if he didn't hear it, he glimpsed at her and responded briefly after a moment of silence.

Clarissa held her breath and tightened her fists while her face turned pale.

Matthew's indifferent attitude was obvious to everyone.

The other men assumed that they were going through a conflict with each other.

However, since Ellie was unaware of their relationship, she asked Clarissa to sit down and complained, "Uncle Matt, don't ruin the mood! Clare, don't take it to heart. Let's eat..."

After hearing Ellie's words, they smiled and began their meal.

Everyone else was friendly except Matthew.

When they mentioned the matter concerning Clarissa, Justin stated that he was also responsible for it. He didn't expect such a thing to happen as he had no idea that she would terminate her contract with Twilight Company and had asked someone to contact her.

“You can make your own decisions when you set up your own studio, Ms. Quigley.”

Clarissa appreciatively accepted his advice. She stood up and thanked them formally by giving a toast. “Uncle Matthew and Director Yates, thank you for your help this time. Cheers!”

After the toast, she gulped her drink down, and Justin smiled and drank too. However, everyone’s attention fell on Matthew as he didn’t respond for a long time.

You’ll Fall for Me, Today or Tomorrow Chapter 80

Clarissa just stood there, staring at Matthew as he fiddled with the glass in his hand.

The atmosphere became incredibly tense with his silence, but nobody dared say a word.

Unable to contain her curiosity any longer, Ellie asked, “What are you doing, Uncle Matt?”

“It’s my fault.” Clarissa was quick to cut her off before she could say anything further.

She then poured herself another glass and held it up to Matthew as she continued, “Uncle Matthew, thank you for helping me and caring for me all this while. I hope you’ll forgive me for the mistakes I’ve made.”

It wasn’t until she downed the entire glass that he slowly looked up at her, and the two of them made eye contact.

This time, Clarissa maintained eye contact. She stared long and hard at him as if she was trying to stand up for herself.

With neither of them backing down, the tension was rising through the roof.

“I helped too, you know? See, I even shared it on Twitter!” Jeremy attempted to defuse the situation.

"Thank you." Clarissa made a toast to him as well and downed another glass, much to Ellie's surprise.

What the hell? Did she unlock the ability to hold her liquor after her trip home or something?

Fortunately, the tension was gone, and Clarissa sat back down in her chair. As Justin was talking to her about the film adaptations, Jeremy butted into the conversation. "Yates, you're making a movie? Let me sponsor you, eh? I want to make myself some money out of the entertainment industry too! With us sponsoring you, your movie will definitely be a big hit worldwide, Clary!"

Yarick chimed in as well. "He's right, Clary! With a little help from Yates, I'm sure you'll make a fine lead actress! I mean, look at Shermaine..."

He stopped himself the moment he realized he had misspoke again, but it was too late. Everyone in the room had already heard what he said.

He then lowered his head to avoid their angry stares and went back to eating.

Stuffing his mouth with food was the only surefire way for him to keep it shut, and that was probably why he was so fat.

"Heh... Yarick is right, though. You certainly have it in you to surpass all those other actresses out there, Clary! Isn't that right, Yates?"

"She has good looks, but looks aren't everything, you know? I'm very strict when it comes to acting skills!" Justin said with a chuckle.

"Yeah, you're right. I've never been to a drama school of any sort, so I think I'll refrain from ruining Director Yates' amazing work and just stick to writing!"

Ellie gave her a playful nudge. "No, that simply won't do! With that pretty face of yours, you should at least consider being a model or something! Remember the pictures we took the other day? They've brought in quite a lot of customers to my shop lately, so why don't you consider working for me as a model?"

"What pictures?" Clarissa asked.

Ellie whipped out her phone and showed them the pictures she had taken of Clarissa, much to the latter's embarrassment.

At that moment, Matthew stood up all of a sudden, plunging the room into silence once again.

"What is it, Matt?"

"I'm going out for a bit."

Ellie waited until he had left the room before going on a rant. "What's gotten into Uncle Matt lately? He's so gloomy and scary! Jeremy, you've been around him a lot, right? Do you know what's going on?"

"Hey, what do you mean by that? I've got other things to do too, you know?"

"You mean your string of girlfriends? Honestly, if it weren't for you being such a playboy, Grandma would've thought you and Uncle Matt are a couple!"

"How uncouth! While I don't really mind it, you'd better not let Matt hear you say that!"

Ellie quickly shut up and stuck her tongue out mischievously while Jeremy flashed Clarissa a smile.

"Better watch your distance with Clary there, Yates! I know you value her talents and all, but others might think you have ulterior motives or something! Come on, let's have a chat. Did you get any action with hot chicks while you were overseas? I hear they're..."

He deliberately cut them off, and Clarissa took advantage of that window of opportunity to excuse herself to the bathroom.

Ellie was about to follow her, but Jeremy stopped her the moment she stood up.

"Oh, no, you're not going anywhere! I've got lots of questions for you too!"

Contrary to what Jeremy had thought, Clarissa was actually going to the bathroom instead of seeing Matthew in private.

Ever since Matthew had been cold to her the moment he saw her, Clarissa didn't even dare go anywhere near him.

She froze in her tracks when she made a turn at the end of the corridor and saw Matthew smoking by the window.

The dim lighting highlighted his tall figure and made the air around him seem a lot colder.

She could've just turned around and went straight back to the room, but her body refused to move, so she just stood there and watched as he puffed away.

After quite a while, Matthew put the cigarette out, turned around, and came face to face with her.

There was a look of panic and guilt on her face, but he simply walked right past her.

Clarissa quickly turned around and grabbed hold of his sleeve with her head held low.

Matthew turned to look at her, expecting her to say something, but she remained silent.

"Let go!" A court order.

His tone sounded even colder than the time they first met, sending a shiver down her spine as she slowly let go of him.

As Matthew was about to continue walking, Clarissa reached out again and grabbed him by the wrist instead.

He spun around and shot her a cold glare, causing her to panic as she tried to explain herself, "I-It's not me! M-My hand just a-acted on its own!"

She realized how stupid she sounded, but she held on to him instead of letting go this time.

Matthew simply snorted sarcastically at her. "Heh!"

Whatever courage she had vanished at that point. All she could do was apologize while avoiding eye contact.

"I'm sorry."

"Just what are you sorry for, Ms. Quigley?"

"I shouldn't have been so rude to you the other day."

"Which day? I don't remember. Now, let go."

Despite how much it hurt her to hear him say that, Clarissa refused to let him go. She wrapped her arms tightly around his waist instead.

"Please don't be angry, I..."

Before she could finish, Matthew had brushed her arms off him and walked straight back to the room.

The heartache and disappointment were so overwhelming that she wanted to cry on the spot.

"Hahahaha..." An ear-piercing laughter came from behind.

Clarissa spun around and saw Yvonne smiling sarcastically at her.

"So much for acting all high and mighty, only to end up throwing yourself at a man! You're just like your mother! No. Actually, your mother had it better! At least my father took pity on her and married her. But that man right there looks like he's just dumped you! How are you so shameless that you'd still try to hug him after that?"

Not wanting to argue with her, Clarissa ignored her insults and walked straight ahead.

Instead of going after Clarissa, Yvonne simply shouted from behind her, "Aww, you poor thing! I can't even imagine how much of a b*tch you must be for a man to reject you even after throwing yourself at him! Hahahaha..."

She took great pleasure in seeing Clarissa trying to avoid her like that.

Upon returning to the room, Clarissa glanced at Matthew and pouted when she saw that he was still being cold towards her.

“What’s wrong, Clare? What took you so long? Wait... Is it just me or do you look unhappy?”

“Mhmm...”

Ellie was shocked to hear her admission. “Seriously? What happened?”

“Oh, it’s nothing. I just ran into a really petty person, that’s all.”

“A petty person? Who? Is it that boyfriend of yours? What did he do? The worst type of men is those who cheat and those who are petty, so you’d better break up with him as soon as possible! Gosh, I hate petty men so much! They could go on and on all day about something you did wrong, and might even bring it up in future arguments!”

Ellie’s words got the attention of everyone in the room, and they all looked towards Clarissa.

Clarissa shot Matthew a glance, but he showed no response.

The other guys there, however, were quick to join in the conversation.

“She’s right! A man who is petty like that is no gentleman at all! I suggest you reconsider your choices, Clary,” Justin said with a chuckle.

“Pettness, eh? It’s true that petty men can be a real pain to deal with. Is he your boyfriend, Clary?” Jeremy asked.

Clarissa nodded.

“Tsk tsks... In that case, you really should break up with him!”

Yarick felt a chill down his spine as he watched the three of them egging her on like that. Their bravery really is something...

“Matt, don’t you have anything to say? Are you really going to just let her break up with him like that?”

All eyes were fixated on Matthew.