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They lied; they all lied to me!

They told me plastic surgery would help and they said my face would be back to normal after going through surgery! However, it's all lies and now they're going to trick me into leaving the country! Grandpa, Dad, Mom, and Gideon... They're all going to give up on me so they've all been keeping this a secret from me!

At this moment, Gemma's heart ached painfully and she hated the situation she was in. At the same time, she felt despondent and fearful of the scar on her face. I don't want to be like this forever and I want to regain my beauty. I just want my pretty face back!

She ran out from the hospital room and headed straight to Tony's room. I need to see him right away and I want to tell him that my disfigurement is because of him! If he hadn't provoked and angered me or made that sudden sharp turn, I wouldn't have crashed into the truck that was parked in front. If all that hadn't happened, I wouldn't have ended up looking like such a monstrosity right now!

He has to bear responsibility for this! He must bear the responsibility! And so, Gemma barged into Tony's room but at this point, he had already left the place. As she failed to get hold of him, she turned around and rushed toward the nearby elevator.

The two bodyguards were not quick enough to stop her and they watched on helplessly as she exited the elevator and walked out of the hospital.

"Sh*t!" One of the bodyguards hit the wall in frustration after realizing that he had failed in stopping her. Meanwhile, the other bodyguard chased her up to the elevator entrance. After reporting the situation to Gideon, both of them hurriedly got into the other elevator that had just arrived and frantically made their way downstairs.

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Most of Tony's work was put on hold after his accident so as soon as he arrived back at the office, he went straight back into handling everything. As for Myra, she felt quite sleepy so

she went into the lounge to take a nap. After waking up from her nap, she came out of the lounge and saw Leo reporting something to Tony with a frown on his face.

“—the Walton Family is quite careful in this aspect, so we haven’t been successful in tracing the company details of each investor.”

As soon as Tony noticed Myra rubbing her eyes while walking into the room, he gestured to Leo with an impassive face and said, “Noted; I’ll make arrangements for the upcoming plans. Just make sure to let Shawn know not to act rashly for now.”

“Sure, Director Hart.” Leo nodded in response and then greeted Myra quickly as he walked out of the door. Before he left, he was considerate enough to shut the door behind him.

“What were you talking about before this? You two looked quite somber and there was a frown on both of your faces.” Myra walked toward Tony and removed the document in his hand before glaring at him. “You haven’t recovered completely, so stop putting further strain on your hand. Just let me or Leo know if you need anything.”

Tony kept silent and he just stared at her fixedly with a dark and brooding gaze. Myra knew that he must be considering something important so she left him alone and she decided to go and pour him a glass of water. However, just as she turned around, he grabbed hold of her hand.

Myra didn’t dare to exert any force, so she turned around once more to look at him. “What’s wrong?”

Tony smiled at her as he let go of her hand. He then tilted his body to the left, signaling to her that he wanted to get something from the bottom-most drawer. Myra immediately took the hint and opened the drawer for him. “What are you after? I’ll get it for you.”

Tony nodded and hummed in response. “It’s the one on top; just take that out from the drawer.”

Myra did as instructed and removed the topmost document in the drawer before handing it to him. The document was kept stored in a brown document bag. She was just about to hand it to him but he didn’t take it from her. “Why don’t you open it up and take a look?” he said to her tenderly.

Feeling perplexed, Myra shot him a look and opened the brown document bag, only to find a small stack of A4 papers filled with words. As soon as Myra saw the title, she immediately knew what this was about.

This was the agreement specifying the transfer of her twenty percent shares in the Stark Group which she had left as a guaranty with Mr. Engelhard. Right now, it was clearly specified that all the shares she had left as guaranty with Mr. Engelhard now belonged to her. Myra was significantly stunned upon seeing that and it took a while for her to register what was going on. "What—"

"Aren't you happy?" Tony noticed her shocked expression and he reached out to pull her onto his lap. He kept his eyes on her as his low voice echoed by her ears.

"I'm happy, but..." Myra turned around and stared at the man in front of her; currently, there was a slight smile on his face. "What's with all this?" She glanced at the date and noticed that this wasn't a recent arrangement. In fact, it was not long after her divorce from Sean. Myra felt a warm, fuzzy feeling in her heart and she could feel her breath quicken in response. "Actually, you don't have to do all this..."

The money she had previously invested into the Chase Group was due in no time and she would be getting back the full amount soon. She had already made plans to use that money to redeem her shares for the Stark Group that was in Mr. Engelhard's hands. Unbeknown to her, this man in front of her had already redeemed it for her.

"Tony, I..." As she held onto the document, she was at a complete loss of words.

Tony pecked her cheek before he placed his chin above her head. He sounded quite content and happy as he drawled, "I've wanted to give this to you for quite some time now. I came up with all sorts of ways to hand it to you but in the end, I've gone for the most straightforward way of just handing it to you like this." Tony chuckled as he recalled this present that he held on for so long and yet didn't manage to give it to her. "I actually wanted to get Mr. Engelhard or Grandpa to give it to you, but then I realized that I should be the one to hand it to you personally. Myra, this isn't a dowry. Not only is this a gift, this also represents my love and commitment toward you."

He then leaned in to kiss her on the lips and nibbled on it as he said in a low voice, "Take a look at the other document behind it."

Myra was already significantly stunned by his generous gift. As soon as she heard his words, she obediently flipped to the back of the stack of documents. There was another agreement behind the transfer of shares of the Stark Group; it was one that specified the transfer of shares of the Hart Group and the beneficiary name on it was Myra.

She instantly stood up from Tony's lap upon seeing that. Gripping tightly onto the agreement, she said in a hoarse voice, "You have to change the details on these two agreements; otherwise, I'll tear it up and it'll be redundant."

She made an action to rip the agreement apart. Upon seeing that, Tony immediately grabbed one of her hands and smiled. "The agreement is in duplicate copies so even if you rip it up, I'll still have the other copy. Besides, this agreement is legally binding so even if you tear it up, the content of it remains unchanged."

Tony couldn't control his laughter upon noticing Myra's torn look. He wrapped his arms around her once again and said, "Anyone else who received these two gifts would have been elated but you're the complete opposite—all I can see is shock and alarm on your face. You've robbed me of my sense of accomplishment!"

"This is different... This is all originally yours—"

"What's mine is yours too, right?" Tony reached out to remove the documents from her hands to prevent her from ripping them up. He glanced at the last document again. Fifty percent of the shares he owned in the Hart Group now belonged to Myra.

In all honesty, he didn't care too much about all this. He was quite willing to give Myra everything he owned because he trusted her. However, Leo had convinced him to hold on to a percentage of the shares in order to run the company.

"Keep this in a safe place. You might need it in the future."

Tony could tell that she was still struggling to come to terms with this so he raised his brows before kissing her eyes gently. "You can think of it as keeping custody of it for our child."

"But—"

"I'll be quite unhappy if you keep this up." Tony's low voice rang out and he decided to seal her mouth with a deep kiss. After a while, Myra finally nodded her head hesitantly. "Okay,

then; I'll keep custody of it for our child." After that, she lifted her head and said, "If you need to use this, just let me know and I'll bring it to you right away."

"Okay." Tony wrapped his hand around hers and he smiled tenderly.

Myra could somehow sense that he was behaving strangely today or perhaps more accurately, she felt that he was behaving strangely after she woke up from her nap. Logically speaking, however, things should be fine between them right now. He had just confessed to her about all the things he did in the past and they had reached a mutual understanding, so it wasn't necessary for him to try so hard to please her.

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"Are you going on a trip? Will it be a long one?" Myra felt quite uneasy.

Tony squeezed her hand and laughed. "I'll definitely bring you and our child along if I have to go on a trip."

"Then what's going on?" Myra stared at the document placed by her hand with a confused look on her face.

At that moment, Tony seemed to sense her uneasy feeling; he curled his lips into a smile and suddenly stared at her squarely in the eyes while asking, "Myra, what if I've decided to go after the Stark Group? Will you feel upset about this?"

"What?" Myra wondered if she misheard Tony's words and her eyes widened in surprise.

As soon as he saw her expression, he couldn't control himself; he let out a deep, rumbling laughter and patted her on the head. "No matter what happens, you must trust me, alright?"

...

On the other end, Gemma had intended to make her way to the Hart Group. She hailed a waiting cab then covered her head with her clothes and entered the car. Upon arriving at the destination, she got out of the car but was stopped by the driver as she had not paid her

fare. Thing was, she had escaped from the hospital in a hurry so she didn't have a single cent on her. Although she tried to make a run for it, she didn't succeed because the driver had grabbed hold of her and refused to let go.

Fortunately, Gideon had expected her to turn up at the Hart Group as soon as he received the phone call from the bodyguard. As such, he was already waiting there. He paid the fare and then forcefully dragged her into his car.

"I don't want to go! Gideon, I want to talk to Tony! I need to clarify things with him! I've ended up like this because of him, so he can't just cast me aside!" Gemma struggled to escape. All of a sudden, the cloth that was covering her face dropped to the ground and her scary-looking face was exposed. She shrieked in fright as soon as she saw herself in the reflection of Gideon's eyes. She then quickly picked up the cloth and wrapped her head up immediately.

"You're all liars! You said that my face could be fixed but it's totally irreparable! I'll be stuck with this ugly, disgusting face and my whole life will be ruined because of this! It's completely ruined!" Gemma cried hysterically as she ranted at Gideon.

Currently, Gideon's brows were knitted together tightly as he didn't know how Gemma suddenly realized the truth about the wounds on her face. However, judging by how things were right now, he knew that it would be detrimental for her to create a fuss in front of Tony. Disregarding the fact that she might not even get the chance to see him, it was quite likely that she wouldn't even get past the receptionist of the Hart Group so clearly, there was no point for her to make a fool of herself.

"Gemma Walton, how old do you think you are? Is crying and making a fuss the only thing you can do when you're in trouble?" Gideon was quite tempted to slap some sense into his sister; however, he didn't bear to do so after recalling her disfigurement. And so, he commented disappointedly, "Tony will not bother to see you! Don't you get it? He doesn't have any feelings toward you so he doesn't care whether you're hurt, and neither does he care about how badly you're wounded! Frankly, he probably wouldn't even bat an eyelash if he received news that you died today! When on earth will you stop losing control regarding anything that concerns him? Do you realize how difficult things are for the company right now? If you keep this up, do you realize that this is just going to push the Hart Group into taking action against our family?"

"You've never contributed to the family at all—first, we arranged for you to work at the company but you complained about the workload. Our only request thereafter was for you to build up a good relationship with Tony, but you kept angering him all the time. Besides

shopping, going to the hair salon and pampering yourself with spa treatments, what else are you good at?"

Gemma was shocked to hear Gideon's incessant rant and she couldn't control the tears from falling as she sobbed, "But what about my face... I can't just pretend that nothing's happened!" As soon as she recalled Tony and Myra's love for each other, she couldn't control the twisted flash of jealousy in her eyes.

"Put up with it! You must put up with it, alright?" Gideon's eyes were as cold as icicles. "It will be just for a short while. Grandpa, Dad, and I have something important going on right now and it's crucial to us, so you'd better not ruin things for us at this point! If everything goes according to plan, the dominant force of Bradford City will soon be replaced. By then, we will obviously seek justice for you. I promise your sufferings will definitely not be in vain!"

Gemma took some time to calm down and her sobs slowly turned to sniffles. However, she couldn't control the resentment she felt upon recalling her current looks and her current sorry state.

"Don't worry; even if Tony files criminal proceedings against you, as long as you follow my instructions, I definitely won't allow anything drastic to happen to you. Although you drove your car into Tony's, that could also be accidental on your part; it was just unfortunate that you had poor driving skills and it wasn't an intentional move. You must stand firm on this version of events. Besides, I'll take you to see a psychiatrist and arrange for an evaluation. Whatever it is, our family will not stand by and watch while you fall into trouble, Gemma. Grandpa's words earlier were just out of anger—there's no way we could abandon you!"

At this moment, Gideon gradually changed his tone of voice and he spoke in a milder tone. As for Gemma, she couldn't stop the tears from falling but she was no longer agitated. Gideon glanced at her and upon noticing that she had finally come round to his advice, he heaved a sigh of relief. However, that was only his assumption. In actual fact, Gemma's personality evidently indicated otherwise as she was not one who could be easily swayed.

In the end, she maintained her opinion that all her misfortune was brought on by Myra. I can put up with this for now but I'll definitely find a way to make her pay for this. By then, I'll make sure that she suffers more than me!

...

Kris woke up from her sleep feeling content. This was the best sleep she had experienced over the past few days.

She woke up in the arms of a man. His embrace was not as cold and hard as Gideon's; on the contrary, it was warm and lovely. She opened her eyes gradually and saw Hayden smiling at her with a tender look on his face. He then kissed her on her forehead and asked lightly, "You're awake?"

Kris hummed in response and she shifted in bed. She had lost herself in the throes of passion with him last night and had been up the whole night. In all honesty, she expected to feel quite uncomfortable today after last night but unexpectedly, she felt fine. Furthermore, she could tell that he had cleaned her up intimately too.

"I was afraid you'd be uncomfortable so after you passed out from exhaustion last night, I gave you a body massage." Hayden smiled at her and he sat up in bed. He then made a move to steer her out of bed too. "You must be hungry! I made breakfast for us and I prepared your favorite porridge and dumplings."

Kris felt quite blessed to wake up to such a blissful life; suddenly, she had the thought to just continue enjoying this life with Hayden from now on. He's the most tender, loving partner I have ever had and I know how much he loves me. But...

Kris lowered her eyelashes and looked downward. Shortly after that, she raised her head and smiled at him. "Oh—that's perfect because I just started to feel hungry! Hayden... can you carry me over?" She stretched out both of her arms toward him and spoke in a flirtatious voice.

Last night, she had explained to him that she would be getting engaged to Gideon soon. All of these were her father's suggestion and everything was for the sake of the collaboration between their families. Once the deal was over, she would then call off the engagement. Hayden had accepted her explanation and he remained steadfastly in love with her.

Kris was perfectly aware that she would not remain in a relationship with Gideon once everything was settled in terms of their personal interests. He was a cruel and cunning man; despite being his bedmate, he always managed to instill a sense of fear in her even as she slept next to him. If by then Hayden was still by her side, she would consider giving him a chance.

Hayden's eyes sparkled and he immediately swept her into his arms and carried her toward the dining area in the living room.

On the dining table, there was already a bowl of porridge served in a porcelain bowl, and it smelled divine from afar.

This was Kris's favorite food and she usually liked the smell of it but today, as soon as she got near the dining table, she inexplicably felt her stomach churn and she couldn't control the nauseous feeling that rose within her.

"Bleugh!" She felt quite uncomfortable and gagged. Suddenly, she struggled to get out of his arms and rushed into the bathroom.

Hayden froze for a moment before he immediately ran after her.

Inside the bathroom, Kris retched several times but she didn't throw up.

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Hayden patted Kris on the back lightly. "What's wrong? Are you feeling better now?"

Kris shook her head. Looking up, she caught sight of her own reflection in the mirror. Currently, there was a dazed look on her face as she realized that this had happened on and off recently. Initially, she had assumed that she was just slightly under the weather so she didn't pay much attention to it. However, this time, it suddenly hit her that it had been more than two months since she had had her period.

Just then, she felt goosebumps all over and she pushed Hayden aside to make her way into the bedroom.

He ran after her frantically. "Kris, what's wrong? Are you feeling uncomfortable? Let's go to the hospital right away!"

Kris took a few steps forward in a hurry but as soon as she noticed that Hayden was right at her heels, she stopped in her tracks all of a sudden. And so, Hayden waited in front of her

expectantly. She smiled forcefully at him as she muttered, "I'm fine. I think I must have eaten something bad. Why don't you have breakfast first? I'll freshen up in the bedroom and I won't take too long."

Hayden sighed in relief. "Alright; but I'll wait for you to have breakfast together."

At the moment, Kris didn't have the energy to deal with Hayden despite his tenderness. She turned her back on him and walked toward the bedroom, not forgetting to shut the door behind her. At that instance when she shut the door, she missed the look of contemplation that flashed across the eyes of the man standing close by.

Kris shut the door and immediately rummaged in the drawer where she usually kept her contraceptive pill before she took one out of the packaging and immediately swallowed it. She would usually take preventative measures each time after having intercourse. Naturally, she never forgot to take it each time she was with Gideon because she didn't want to get pregnant with his child. As for Hayden, he was a considerate lover so he would always remind her every time. However, she bit on her lower lip and she couldn't quite control her uneasiness now.

After breakfast, Hayden sent Kris to work. Just before turning into the intersection to her office, she requested for him to stop the car at the pharmacy nearby. She told him that she wanted to get some gastric medication but instead, she discreetly bought a pregnancy test kit.

Hayden remained in the same spot after dropping her off at work. He then made his way back to the pharmacy that she had visited earlier and spoke to the woman who served her. "Excuse me, may I know what sort of medication did that pretty lady with waist-length hair, who visited ten minutes ago, bought?"

...

Recently, Myra had completely stopped going to work. She had ongoing morning sickness and her baby was quite a fussy one. As such, her troubles with sleeping and eating were quite evident from her sunken, hollow cheeks.

Sebastian and Lisa both felt quite pained to see her suffer. Hence, both of them insisted that Myra stay at the Hart Residence for the time being so that they could take care of her.

As for Tony, he was quite busy recently and his left arm was almost fully recovered. In order to spend more time with Myra, he would usually leave for work late in the morning and come home early in the evening. However, he remained busy with work at home; there were files full of documents on the coffee table and the surrounding carpet on the ground. Leo was always going in and out of the place too. He had also jokingly mentioned to Myra that this current arrangement was too taxing for him and he had insisted on a pay raise.

Myra was mainly at home nowadays and she hardly left the house. Perhaps because of her morning sickness, she couldn't quite stand the smell inside the car. Every morning after waking up, she would take a walk in the garden with Lisa. After having lunch, she would then take a short nap in the afternoon and after she woke up, she would normally be with Sebastian as they busied themselves with floral arrangements. All in all, her days were usually quite laid-back.

Occasionally, Myra would get phone calls from a couple of unlisted numbers on her cell phone. Normally, she would just ignore them and leave them ringing, or she would just turn her phone on silent. Whoever it was, she never answered the phone. As for her work at the Stark Group, Tilly would occasionally ring her for work-related issues. That happened quite rarely because Myra was on maternity leave right now so with Tilly being her personal assistant, the latter didn't have much work to do. All she had to do was to follow up on the projects on hand.

To Myra's surprise, the Walton Family seemed to be lying low lately or to be more specific, Gemma seemed to be keeping a low profile. However, word out there was that she seemed to have realized that she was permanently disfigured and there was a low chance for her to regain her old looks. Based on her personality from before, it was inevitable that she would create a huge scene but surprisingly, she was quite well-behaved recently and kept to herself.

Whenever Myra recalled the incident regarding the police investigation, it didn't come as a surprise for Gemma to be behaving herself. All of this was most probably because there was a thorough investigation made into the accident. Gemma had undergone a psychiatry assessment in order to avoid prosecution and she publicly announced that she was diagnosed with a mild split personality disorder. She had claimed that she was not in the right state of mind when she attempted to drive her car into Tony's.

In regard to that incident, the Hart Family had decided to let her off the hook.

It felt as if there was a storm brewing in Bradford City but at the same time, everything seemed quite normal to the eye.

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Myra was sunbathing in the garden when news broke regarding the fund embezzlement from the Stark Group's Green Palms Project. The autumn rays were not too strong so she enjoyed the warm feeling as the rays hit her body when she relaxed in the garden.

It was a rare occasion for Tony to be able to take half the day off, so he made himself comfortable on a chaise lounge next to her and they laid facing each other.

While they were enjoying this cozy moment together, Myra suddenly received a hasty phone call from Cameron on her cell phone. Recently, she had not been keeping track of her phone so as soon as her phone rang, Tony picked it up. He glanced at the phone and revealed a half-smile before swiping right to answer the call. Then, he handed the phone to Myra.

"Hi, who is this?" Although Myra knew who it was on the line, she purposely did that to annoy Cameron.

Tony wrapped his arms around the woman in front of him and he pulled her into a tight embrace. At the moment, he eyes were half-lidded and his thin lips were pursed into a thin line. The golden rays shone down and hit his handsome face; as a result, his originally well-sculpted face became even more attractive. All of a sudden, Myra seemed to have forgotten that she was on the line and she leaned forward to give him a peck on the lips.

He raised his brows upon realizing her action. Gradually, he opened his eyes that were dark as coals and squinted at her. "I would be much happier if you'd kept going for a few more seconds," he murmured with a smile.

"Pfft!" Myra's face flushed red and she was slightly embarrassed by her eagerness earlier. She then burrowed herself into his embrace once again before focusing on the person on the line. "What do you need from me?" she asked coldly.

Cameron had already repeated his words twice but then Myra hadn't paid any attention to him at all while he was talking. Right now, as soon as he heard her words, he had no choice but to lower his voice and repeat the same thing. "Myra, the company needs your help right now."

"Does it? But I'm currently on maternity leave and you've taken charge of mostly everything. I thought Kris was helping you run the company, so why would you need my help?"

At this point, Cameron clearly knew that she was being sarcastic; however, he had no choice but to tolerate it.

The Stark Group was currently in collaboration with the Walton Family to develop the Central Square project, and there was also a deep-sea oil drilling project in the making. All in all, the Stark Group had invested a huge sum of money into those two projects. As such, there was no capital available to replenish the budget deficit of the Green Palms Project. However, the current problem was that if this project flopped, there would be lawsuits for fraud awaiting them—from both their suppliers and clients. As such, Cameron had no other option. He suddenly realized that he could seek help from Myra after being reminded by Kris and Rachel. He knew that right now, Myra was loaded; even if one disregarded her assets, if she could somehow convince the Hart Group to lend a helping hand, then there would no longer be an issue with the project.

“Myra, you must be joking. Kris is just temporarily taking over your position but everything remains yours once you come back from maternity leave. You’re still the general manager and the biggest shareholder of the Stark Group. We’ve hit a snag right now so you can’t just sit by and watch us falter.” Cameron sounded quite sincere with his words.

Just then, Tony couldn’t control his laughter upon noticing Myra’s sudden drastic change in her expression and tone of voice. He pinched her lightly on the nose, which earned him a glare from Myra. At the same time, she casually replied to Cameron, “Tell me what’s going on first.”

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“So this is how things are right now—six months ago, we started work on the Green Palms Project and things had been going perfectly fine until this morning, when I was told that the budget for the project was embezzled. The police have launched an investigation into this incident. The contractor appointed to complete the job was just a shell company and the director is no longer contactable; so far, the police haven’t apprehended anyone but news of this has already gone out to the public. The Green Palms Project is a major project and we have already pre-sold many units. Right now, our phones are ringing off the hook from all the phone calls made by these clients. If we can’t fill this deficit and continue with the construction works on the project, then we will be facing a huge lawsuit...”

Cameron broke out in cold sweat upon describing the situation to Myra. This had happened all of a sudden without prior warning, which was why they were caught by surprise and were completely unprepared.

As soon as Myra heard Cameron's words, she looked at Tony instinctively and she couldn't help but recall the words he had spoken to her the other day. She tried hard to calm her racing heartbeat and as she commented lightly, "President Stark, do you mean to say that you want me to come up with the money to fill the deficit?"

Cameron took a deep breath and forced a smile on his face. "Myra, I know that you're definitely not who you were before. Of course, if you were to come up with the money, then there will be incentives for you from the company. Half of the profit from the project is yours to keep and I'll leave the Stark Group in your hands too."

He's only going to offer me fifty percent of the profit from the project? Myra laughed out loud all of a sudden. "President Stark, according to your words earlier, this news is public knowledge. Obviously, even if you approach the bank for a loan right now, it would definitely be rejected, yes?"

Currently, it took a lot of effort for Cameron to keep a calm expression but his tone of voice remained quite warm. "Myra, this time, you're the only one who can help the company. Surely you wouldn't want the company to suffer any losses? After all, your mom put in a lot of effort into building up the company!"

"The losses are inevitable. Previously, you ignored my advice and insisted on using up all of our available cash flow to invest in those two projects with the Walton Group. Right now, you've got a problem with insufficient cash flow and a budget deficit issue. Soon, it won't be just the Green Palms Project that will face the issue of a budget deficit; this will become a problem for the whole company too. By then, a major company like ours will most likely flop from this tiny incident."

Cameron felt quite embarrassed and stung by Myra's strong words. However, he remained quite stubborn in his thought that the Walton Family's two projects were beneficial to them; one of them would result in a huge profit while the other one was beneficial in terms of building up their reputation. Every businessman would have taken that into good consideration. Besides, the Walton Family had granted them a bigger share of the profit. It was just unfortunate that the project had hit a snag halfway; as such, the money he had kept aside as an emergency cash reserve became totally insignificant.

“Myra...” Cameron gritted his teeth and there was a flash of annoyance in his eyes. However, his tone of voice was the same as he sounded frantic and quite anxious. “This will be a lesson for us and I promise there won’t be another incident like this anymore. This is a critical period right now so we need to first resolve the problem and stop all the rumors. Otherwise—”

“Tony—” All of a sudden, Myra interrupted Cameron’s words. She ignored Cameron and turned toward Tony. With a smile on her face, she looked at the man who was currently toying with her sleeve. “Would you be willing to help me come up with the money to fill the Stark Group’s deficit?”

Initially, Cameron felt quite upset at being cut off by Myra but upon hearing her words, he realized that she was seeking help from Tony, so that bit of unhappiness he felt faded immediately. He waited patiently on the line with bated breath as he listened to their conversation. Soon after that, he heard Tony say in a low and indifferent voice, “I’m not interested in helping fill that deficit.”

Immediately after Cameron heard that, he didn’t care whether they could hear him on the other end and he yelled out frantically, “Director Hart, Myra’s mother put in a lot of effort to build the Stark Group into how it is right now. If the company flops, I’m sure she wouldn’t be able to rest in peace. Besides, Myra will be quite unhappy too.”

Tony must have heard his words because right after that, Cameron heard him ask Myra, “If I don’t do this, will you be unhappy about it?”

Myra shook her head naïvely. “Why would I be unhappy about it?”

Right after that, Tony took Myra’s phone and replied to Cameron, “Did you hear that?”

Cameron clenched his teeth angrily as soon as he heard that. This vile couple is obviously taking me for a ride! Out of immense anger, he immediately hung up the call without saying another word.

Myra couldn’t control her laughter upon hearing the engaged tone blaring out from her phone. Just then, she pretended to put on an annoyed look and she raised her eyebrows at Tony before retorting fiercely, “My mother’s never going to rest in peace! I can’t believe you rejected my request to help fill the deficit for the Stark Group! I thought you said you love me? It must be a lie! You’re a big, fat liar and I’m not going to talk to you anymore!”

Tony chuckled deeply in response. He then tugged on Myra's hand but she made to fling his hand aside; her actions resulted in him laughing louder than before and he suddenly pinched her cheeks. "Naughty girl! Do you really mean it?"

Myra felt quite embarrassed by his action of pinching her chubby cheeks. Due to her pregnancy, she had gained a lot of weight both around the waist as well as on her cheeks. When he pinched her, his actions further emphasized her chubbiness, which felt quite ugly to her. She hastily buried her head into his chest. "Stop pinching my cheeks; I look ugly!" Soon after that, she raised her head to look at him.

The man in front of her maintained his perfect figure. As he laid there, his broad shoulders and tight bottom were quite prominent; paired with his flawless face, Myra couldn't help but feel a sense of melancholy. Out of annoyance, she pinched him hard on the waist but ended up feeling the pain in her hand herself. Last night, she had just seen his body and obviously knew how well-toned and powerful the abs she had just pinched were. She was gradually losing her pretty looks whereas he maintained his handsome appearance. This is so unfair!

As soon as she realized that, Myra buried herself deeper into Tony's arms but this time, she purposely turned around and showed him her back. There was a stark difference between their looks and she couldn't help herself from feeling upset about it.

Tony looked at her pouting lips and laughed out loud. He wrapped his arms around her and pulled her into a tight hug. Then, he gave her a kiss on her forehead. "Fine, then. If you want me to come up with the money then I'll do it for you, and I'll even risk Grandpa's wrath to give you the Hart Group if that's what you want. You can have everything!"

This silly man! Myra pursed her lips and there was a hint of shyness that flashed across her eyes. Although he would occasionally sweet-talk her in the past, she felt herself drowning in his sweet and affectionate tone right now.

Gosh, I've become weirder and weirder even since I became pregnant. I can't believe he played along with me though it was just an intentional little outburst. Myra's lips curved into a sweet smile as she pondered over that.

Standing not too far from them, Sebastian was tending to his plants; he had seen the two of them being so lovey-dovey the whole afternoon. With a frown, he muttered to himself, "They're so indecent!" Then, he snorted before heading back into the house to look for Lisa.

...

After Cameron hung up the phone, both Rachel and Kris, who were standing by his side, asked anxiously, “What did she say? Did Myra agree to come up with the money? How about asking her for a loan? Once we resolve this crisis, we can come up with the money to repay her. We shouldn’t have to be too courteous with her; we’re family, after all, but we shouldn’t take advantage of her too!”

Cameron’s expression turned darker as soon as he heard their words. Myra’s attitude clearly indicated that she wasn’t going to lend a hand this time. She’s no daughter of mine!

Just then, Rachel signaled to Kris. With a sigh, the latter said, “Dad, don’t worry too much. I’ve pleaded with Gideon to help us with this problem and he promised to consider it. If necessary, I’ll head over to the Walton Group’s new company to talk to him.”

Cameron’s face finally brightened slightly. Indeed, Kris is the only daughter who’s on my side when I need her. He clenched his teeth and promised, “Don’t worry, Krissy. I will take good care of you and your mother in the future. Once all this is over, I’ve decided that I’ll hand over ten percent of my shares in the Stark Group to you—it’s time for you to learn how to run the place.”

As soon as Kris heard that, there was a surprised look on her face. Perhaps it was because Cameron was a difficult person to please all this while, so this serious promise made by him right now was quite overwhelming for her. She glanced at Rachel and clearly saw the elatedness in her eyes as well. Soon after that, her mother shot her a look.

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Kris hurriedly replied, “Dad, I’ll go over to the Walton Group right away. Don’t worry; I’ll definitely be able to convince Gideon to help you!”

Cameron nodded in response and he waved her off tiredly. Meanwhile, Kris nodded at Rachel and headed out of the door.

This is such an unexpected surprise! I’ve managed to ask for help from the Walton Group and Gideon already, but I just purposely wanted Dad to see Myra’s true colors. After he sought help from her and got rejected, it obviously further emphasized my willingness to help. This time, Gideon had agreed to Kris’ request without any qualms and she felt quite

pleased with his performance too. Turns out that Gideon's quite dependable during critical moments like these!

...

Kris made her way to the Walton Group and headed straight toward Gideon's office under the guise of seeking help. However, just before she walked into his office, she was stopped in her tracks by his secretary who awkwardly said, "Miss Stark, Mr. Walton has a visitor in his office and it's inconvenient for you to go in right now." Kris noticed that she spoke in a nervous and careful tone; based on her experience in the corporate world all these years, she could tell from the secretary's eyes that there must be something else going on. Kris was just about to tell her to step aside when all of a sudden, someone from inside opened the door to Gideon's office.

It was a woman who made her way out of the room and Kris' face turned pale as soon as she saw that person—it was none other than Lyla.

Evidently, Lyla had seen Kris as well. Nevertheless, the former maintained a natural expression and walked out of the office with a cool and composed look as she headed toward the elevator where Kris was currently standing.

"Stop right there!" At the moment, Kris had an ashen look on her face. There is no way I will be taken for a fool! As soon as Lyla had walked out of the room, Kris had noticed that despite the former being dressed properly, she had instinctively shifted her collar, revealing a reddish mark on her collarbone. Moreover, there were too many creases on her dress, which was definitely unusual.

"Lyla Fisher, you're such a shameless woman! Not only did you go after Myra's man, you're now after mine too!" Kris yelled angrily at Lyla. Although the former didn't intend to spend the rest of her life with Gideon, she still couldn't accept the fact that he had publicly humiliated her by two-timing her; furthermore, it was with Lyla of all people. This amounted to him giving her a tight slap on the face.

"Miss Stark, please mind your words! I've just come around to discuss something with Mr. Walton, so please be respectful." Lyla commented casually.

"Just a discussion?" Kris's voice turned shriller in response and she wanted to rush up to grab hold of Lyla's clothes and slap her in the face. However, she was held back tightly by Gideon's secretary. "Miss Stark, please stop it! Director Walton has come out."

As soon as Kris heard her words, she turned around immediately; indeed, Gideon was currently standing in front of the doorway to his office, and he was staring at them with a cryptic look on his face. Kris suddenly recalled that she needed his help with the problem with the Stark Group. As such, she didn't dare to make a fuss. Hence, she unwillingly calmed down and forced herself to stop going after Lyla.

"You'd better watch out because I won't let you off the hook!" Kris muttered under her breath. She then forcefully bumped into Lyla's shoulder before walking toward Gideon.

Lyla, on the other hand, nonchalantly made her way toward the elevator and she acted as if nothing had happened. She then pressed on the button to go down to the basement parking and made her way downstairs.

Frankly, Kris' words meant nothing to Lyla. She was already living in desperation so there was nothing else that could faze her. She no longer harbored any hopes to maintain her position as the Young Mistress of the Chase Family, but she would definitely keep a tight grasp on everything that belonged to her.

...

As soon as Lyla left the place, Gideon's secretary naturally tried to keep herself out of sight.

Meanwhile, Kris bit on her lower lip nervously before walking toward Gideon.

She knew it was fairly normal for a man like Gideon to have one or two casual flings; moreover, they were not married yet. However, being aware of it was different from actually experiencing it in person.

She couldn't quite control her disgust upon realizing that this man had hooked up with someone else behind her back. Nonetheless, she was unable to confront him about this right now.

Just then, her eyes turned red-rimmed and her tears started falling uncontrollably. She took another few steps forward to stand in front of him and she bit hard on her lower lip. "Gideon, you and Lyla..."

"What you're imagining did not happen between me and Miss Fisher. She was here as the representative of the Chase Group to discuss something with me, and we didn't even spend

more than twenty minutes together before you arrived." Then, he glanced at his secretary standing by the side.

She immediately nodded her head earnestly in response. "That's right, Miss Stark! Miss Fisher arrived slightly more than ten minutes before you!"

Although Kris was fully aware that the two of them were in cahoots to deceive her—they didn't even bother to come up with a more plausible excuse and didn't even care whether she realized this—she had no choice but to endure this agony. She bit on her lip once again and raised her head to smile at Gideon. "Okay... I trust you, Gideon."

Just then, Gideon's expression was full of scorn and he revealed a half-smile at Kris. Almost instantaneously, he masked the contempt in his eyes and placed his arms around Kris' waist before steering her toward the office. "Why did you come all the way here? Don't worry; I promised you I'd help solve Stark Group's problem so I'll definitely keep my word. The Stark Group is your family business, so any problem faced by your family is mine too. How could I possibly stand by idly?"

At that moment, Kris felt quite relieved as soon as she heard his words. She tried hard to suppress her disgust and kissed him on his cheek. "When will you provide the funds to cover the budget deficit? I'm sure you're aware that my dad's quite anxious and he hasn't been sleeping or eating properly due to this. A few companies are lying in wait to take advantage of this situation and he's just worried that..."

"Don't worry." Gideon forcefully pulled Kris' body closer to his and he practically leaned on her. Kris was momentarily stunned by his move but soon after that, she looked at him coyly. "Gideon..."

"The Walton Group has organized a company dinner tonight; we've just relocated back to Bradford City so we need an event to rub shoulders with the top dogs of the city's corporate circle. Can you accompany me tonight?" Gideon's warm breath felt ticklish as it hit Kris' neck.

Instantly, she felt her hair rise but she could only smile and nod her head in response. "Of course I will."

In fact, Kris' relationship with Gideon was a source of envy among her group of close friends. Therefore, she definitely wouldn't miss this chance to turn up in public with Gideon.

Gideon continued to stare lovingly at her; all of a sudden, he swept her off her feet into his arms and made his way into the lounge.

Just then, Kris became conscious of her condition and her face turned as pale as a sheet upon that realization. She then said with a forced smile, "Gideon, I'm not feeling well today..."

"That's fine; I'll be gentle..." Gideon brushed off her concern.

Truth was, Gideon was not a gentle lover. Furthermore, he had some violent preferences but since he had said so, there was nothing that Kris could do to reject him. With a resigned sigh, she clenched her hands into fists.

...

Initially, Tony hadn't actually planned to attend the Walton Group's dinner party. He was well-aware of the outcome so he wasn't interested in attending, but Myra was quite keen about it. She wasn't worried that they would be thrown out of the place because Tony's attendance tonight would only serve to garner a positive response to the Walton Family, and everyone else would definitely jump to the conclusion that the Walton and Hart families had cleared the air with each other. Therefore, it would be quite foolish for the Waltons to forsake this opportunity.

Tony could tell that Myra was quite keen on it so he didn't want to disappoint her. As such, he mentioned his conditions—she was to stay by his side the whole time. After she gave her word, they bade farewell to Sebastian and Lisa and made their way to the Walton family's dinner party.

Indeed, everything was within Myra's expectations. Gemma was absent from the dinner party, perhaps because she was still recuperating in the hospital. Besides Gemma, everyone else from the Walton Family was in full attendance. Of course, her 'sister', being Gideon's fiancée, was present too. As soon as the Walton Family saw Tony and Myra enter hand-in-hand, their faces turned slightly awkward but everyone maintained their smiles and greeted them as the couple made their way into the ballroom.