

## Chapter 68 It's A Long Story

The room was too suffocating to breathe in so she went out alone to get some fresh air. Gabrielle didn't want to bother her friends for some last minute reunion. Instead, she drove out aimlessly on the road, following no path in mind. She just needed some space.

If only her best friend, Sloane, was her normal and healthy self, Gabrielle would definitely pick her up from any corner of the city and have a girl's night out. She could have taken her out to have a barbecue and some drinks in the nearest hotspot in town. That would have definitely brightened up Gabrielle's mood. Just imagining it, made her grin mischievously. ②

Nothing she could do with Sloane still in a coma, lying in a hospital bed. Even if she was unable to go out for a drink, the urge to confide in someone was burning her throat as if she drank some cleaning detergent. Going to Austin was the first thing she could think of but realization hit her.

The thought of Westley's cold face towards Austin made a chill rise from the bottom of her heart. 'Forget it!' She didn't want to call anyone tonight. 'I'll just drive around by myself, I'm sure I'll feel better somehow.' She shook her head thinking of all the bad things

that could happen.

She drove alone around the block to dispel her gloomy mood. Later on, she heard her stomach growling as she recalled that she hadn't eaten anything. She thought, 'I better eat something or I will be in big trouble.'

She made her way to the nearest restaurant, an al fresco surrounded by bright-colored flowers and a lingering aroma. The ambience gave her peace and comfort, like a friend by her side. Soon after, the sun was going down, and colorful lights lit up the dark sky. A great place where couples, or good friends, could have a candle-lit dinner or a simple chat.

'I would definitely bring Sloane here one day. She would love such a romantic place!' By the corner across a beautiful scenery, she sat down and ordered some food just to fill her empty belly. While waiting, the beauty encapsulated her in a wonderland, like her worries were all gone.

"Pretty girl, mind if I take the seat?" A chuckling voice, meant to tease, came from above. The voice was familiar, 'Could it be?' Gabrielle slowly raised her head, avoiding the broken expectation, to see Mia smiling in front of her. 3

"It's really you, Gabrielle! I thought my mind was playing tricks on me. "But... why are you wearing a hat now, in the middle of the night?"

" Ignoring the fact that Gabrielle hadn't invited her to join, Mia gracefully sat down in front of Gabrielle.

Gabrielle didn't want to say anything, rather, scared to say anything. Days ago, she had to wear a mask and a hat when heading outside but now she could take off her mask. Today, Remy applied some transparent gauze on her face, at least it was not as terrifying as a white gauze.

"I..."

"What's wrong with your face?" Mia noticed that there was something wrong with her face.

The romantic place was just lit by the candles and some dimmed lights. Even if people were less than a meter apart, it would be difficult to clearly see the facial features of another person.

"I... I'm fine." Gabrielle shook her head to the right, trying conceal to her face from getting revealed.

If Mia believed her words that easily, she would be a big fool. Immediately, Mia stood and walked up to Gabrielle. She forcefully took the hat off, revealing Gabrielle's face. Mia gasped to her surprise upon seeing the expression on Garielle's face.

"Goodness! Gabrielle, you... What happened to you? Why did you scratch your face too hard? I remember seeing you all fair and beautiful in the hospital last time. It wasn't long ago since, how could it be like this? What could have happened to you?" The shock on seeing Gabrielle's face filled Mia's eyes with worry and concern.

Mia wondered who the heartless being could possibly hurt beautiful Gabrielle. Mia knew, she would never.

"Well... I was scratched by a rampaged wildcat." Gabrielle was clearly bothered by the situation. She didn't want to talk about it. After all, the past was in the past. Although, those three women were locked up in the police station, she was still disheartened to know that Estelle was not punished.

Gabrielle really wanted to see Estelle suffer in the police station, as she deserved.

"A wild cat. huh? What a cool cat! How sharp were its claws? Now, I am curious to see this cruel wildcat." Mia sat back on the chair, trying to crack a joke to make her smile a bit.

She knew, it was not a cat. It was impossible for an injury like that to be scratched by a mere cat.

Did Gabrielle think she'd be fooled by saying

it was just a wildcat? Pigs would be flying if the claws of a cat was that huge. Never would a scratch as such be done by a cat, unless it was an elite cat.

"Miss Robinson, I'm just kidding—" as her chuckles slowly faded away.

"Call me Mia," Mia butted in.

"Mia, it's too late for dinner, isn't it? Why come out this late to eat?" She started to talk about dinner, aiming to change the topic away from the heat.

"Well... I'm here to eat because I was hungry. I tend to miss the right time to eat if I am away from home, so my brother nags at me to eat on proper meal times. How about you, Gabrielle? This restaurant is a bit out of your usual way home." Mia, expecting a reply from Gabrielle, had her face filled with curiosity and doubt.

"I just happen to pass by this new beautiful place. Just in time, my stomach was growling, so I came to check the place out," she explained.

The waiter brought in the food Gabrielle ordered. Mia was shocked to see too little food, so she ordered some more to eat.

When the food was completely served on the table, Gabrielle was surprised by the amount

Mia ordered. How could two people finish all of it? Anyone could figure out that the set was made for four mouths, not for two.

"I don't think we can finish all these, Mia," she said in concern.

"Nah, I have a big appetite. Even if I am thin, I eat a lot without gaining a pound. Also, if we cannot finish it together, I can always call my brother to help us out. His company building is not far from here." Mia's mind was filled with boggling thoughts. 5

Gabrielle looked at Mia with admiration and envy. She would do anything to have what Mia had, to not gain weight even after eating a mountain of food platters.

"Oh, I almost forgot to ask! How was the dinner date with my brother last time? I chose that restaurant just for that special day. Among tens of millions, I thought of it as the best. It's great, don't you think?" She looked at Gabrielle with eyes filled with affirmation from her.

That day was horrible. Gabrielle did not feel great at all.

Wondering of what Westley had done that night made Gabrielle's blood boil with anger, as if a molten rock was placed in some water.

Fortunately, Gabrielle was crystal clear to

Micheal. There would have never been something intimate between them. It was just right for a married woman, like her, to stay away from seducing a man like him.

"Gabrielle, are you alright? Why are you so silent? Did my brother say anything bad to you?" Mia was starting to get worried as the silence between her and Gabrielle grew longer and longer.

Since Micheal came home that day, he was just as silent as Gabrielle. No matter what Mia asked him of what had happened, he was like a statue that did not say a word. Mia was distressed, but also emotionally exhausted.

Surely, he was a person of privacy. He kept a low profile but actually had a whole complete persona that no one had ever seen. Given that he just met a woman that night, he might had some difficulty or some dilemma that he couldn't handle by himself. Perhaps, it would be best to give him some time to think.

Mia left the issue untouched, she didn't want to cause more troubles for Micheal. She still needed to know what happened. Now that she saw Gabrielle in front of her, this was her chance to find out. She needed to know what transpired that night.

"Not at all! Mr. Robinson is a real gentleman.

I could say, at first hand, that he is gentle and polite." There was no fault in Gabrielle's words. Ever since, Micheal was always a polite man with great etiquette and demeanor. It was almost a guarantee for any girl to fall in love with such a man.

It was just a pity that Gabrielle did not fall for him that easily.



## Chapter 69 Outright Refusal

Mia and Gabrielle were still together. Mia smiled from ear to ear when she thought about Gabrielle and her brother being together. She would do everything within her power to make sure that they became closer. What gladdened her heart the more was when she heard her praise her brother. She was overjoyed beyond words.

"I'm so happy that there is a possibility of my brother being with you. Do you think that my brother is a good man? Would you like to be my sister-in-law? Besides, it would be a nice thing for you to promise that you'll marry Micheal to thank him for saving your life," Mia said with so much excitement written all over her. She was so happy that she even swayed her body from side to side as she spoke.

"Mia, I'm sorry, but what I'm about to say will surely discourage you. Your brother and I can only be friends. There can't be anything more than that between us," she said as she looked at her seriously.

Mia's face froze and she looked at her completely confused. She wondered what was wrong. "Why, Gabrielle? Is there anything wrong with my brother? Did he do anything that you didn't like? Talk to me; let

me know," she asked her with so much anxiety in her voice.

"No, he didn't do anything wrong. It's just that Mr. Robinson is a very good man. I don't think I deserve him." She shook her head as she said this. <sup>1</sup>

"Why? I think you are a good girl. You are beautiful and kind at heart. It is rare to meet such a girl like you these days. My brother needs a girlfriend like you in his life." Mia looked at her pleadingly.

All this while, she had thought that Micheal and Gabrielle would be together.

It was surprising to hear that Micheal, who had always been aloof and celibate, would have some sort of interest in Gabrielle. She was in support because she knew that his object of attraction was a very nice person. She thought there was still an opportunity for them to improve their relationship.

But right now, her plans had failed woefully

She felt so downcast that she had to put her head down for some seconds.

"Mia, I need you to listen to me first. I don't know why you respect me the way you do, but I'm not as good as you think. Your brother and I just knew each other for a short time. You haven't even known me for that

long. How can you think that I'm a nice person, nice enough to be with your brother?" Gabrielle asked her with so much seriousness. Actually, she was honored by the fact that Mia, who had known her for such a short time thought she was good, but she felt that she didn't deserve such honor. 'Not me, ' she thought to herself quietly.

"You're a good girl, Gabrielle. I remember vividly the day you helped me. Everyone was watching a play that night; nobody wanted to look in my direction. You were the only one who wanted to give me a helping hand. Sometimes, it doesn't take time to know a person. For others, they may not know each other all their lives, while some can completely understand each other in just a second," Mia said seriously with a smile plastered on her face. 5

Gabrielle was shocked by Mia's words, because she thought of herself and her brother, Bryce. She and Bryce had known each other for half a lifetime. Besides, they had lived under the same roof for twenty years, but she hadn't known him and what he was capable of until now.

"Gabrielle, what I said makes sense, right? You and my brother..."

"Mia, I'm married." She had to cut her short. Actually, she didn't want to break up Mia's

fantasy, but the reality at hand was very brutal. ①

The smile on Mia's face froze. She didn't understand what she meant by such a statement. She understood, but didn't want to believe it. It took her a while to come back to her senses. ②

"Gabrielle, I don't understand. What did you just say? You have gotten married? Are you just pulling my legs? Tell me that you're just teasing me and I'll believe you." Mia didn't believe what she had said just now, not at all. It couldn't be true.

Gabrielle seemed to be in her early twenties. It was clear that she hadn't graduated from university yet. 'How could she be married?' she reasoned as she shook her head in disbelief. ②

"Ha-ha, Gabrielle, your joke is not funny at all. Do you think I'm a three-year-old child? I don't believe it. If you had said that you have a boyfriend or a fiancé, I can still believe it. But I won't believe that you're married. If you don't like my brother, I can understand because I don't want my brother to marry a woman who doesn't love him and has no feelings for him," she said in a hurry. Gabrielle understood what she meant by that.

Considering all of these, Mia would never believe that she was married.

Of course, Gabrielle could understand how she felt. If she were in her shoes, she would also feel the same way.

"Mia, you know I can't deceive you with such a statement. I'll gain nothing by lying to you. If you don't believe me, I can't force you. I'm just telling you how the whole situation is. I'm married and I have a husband. And for this reason, I can't be with your brother. I can't betray my husband and my marriage," she said to her, hoping that she would understand better.

To put it bluntly, the marriage between Westley and Gabrielle was nothing but a marriage of atonement as there was no love between them. She played the role of a scapegoat instead of a legally married wife. Although she said that she couldn't betray her marriage and her husband, she was just scared of what Westley would do to the Jones should she escape from this prison called marriage.

This time around, Mia finally believed what she had said. She had to accept the reality that Gabrielle was married and that there was nothing she could do about it.

Since she was a married woman, Mia would not force her to be with her brother. If she did, her brother would be referred to as 'the other man'.

"I'm so sorry, Mia. I didn't tell you that I was married at the beginning, which made you misunderstand and get Mr. Robinson involved. I know it's very embarrassing," Gabrielle apologized as soon as she saw Mia's facial expression.

'What nonsense. If a person found that the woman she wanted to make a match for her brother was a married woman, how would that person be happy? My brother almost became 'the other man' who almost interrupted the marriage of someone else. I had almost destroyed Gabrielle's marriage unknowingly. It would have been much more disastrous, ' she thought silently.

"Gabrielle, I should be the one to apologize. I was the one who made matched you with my brother before I was able to figure out what had happened. I'm so sorry. I hope this didn't affect your relationship with your husband. Your husband doesn't know you had dinner with my brother, does he? What kind of man is your husband? I'm sure he loves you very much, right? Otherwise, you wouldn't have married him at such a young age," Mia analyzed quickly without waiting for her reply.

'Love me very much?' Gabrielle laughed within herself.

But the fact was that Westley hated her so

much that if he had the opportunity to kill her, he would do so without batting an eyelid.

"Well, it's okay." She was not interested in answering Mia's numerous questions.

"Oh, I would love to see your husband. What kind of man is he? Hope he knows that he is so lucky to be married to you? Have you both been together since childhood? People who have been lovers from childhood have a kind of relationship that is super beautiful right from when they were young. When they grow up, they get married and stay together for the rest of their lives. It's a happy thing to think about. It's so lovely," Mia said as she smiled with delight.

Gabrielle smiled bitterly because what Mia had said was really what she had imagined a long time ago. But the person whom she had imaged was not her current husband, Westley, but Bryce.

When she found out that she no longer treated Bryce as her brother, but a lover, she had secretly imagined that they would grow up, get married, and spend the rest of their lives happily.

But the reality of life was cruel. She was just an adopted daughter of the Jones and didn't deserve to marry Bryce at all. Besides, when Bryce knew that she had a crush on him, he

always avoided her. He must have thought she was repulsive.

"What's the matter, Gabrielle? Have I said anything wrong?" Seeing that she was in a state of shock, Mia asked with concern.

'Did I say too much?' Mia thought worriedly.

"No, my husband and I haven't been together since childhood," she said softly as soon as she came back to reality.

"Oh! That means it was love at first sight, right?" Mia said excitedly as she clapped her hands.



## Chapter 70 Unfortunate Coincidence

Gabrielle was reluctant to explain about her reason of marriage with Westley. She had no idea how to explain to Mia that this marriage was just a mere atonement not even a marriage of common interests.

"I guess so!" The newly married Gabrielle was trying her best to keep this topic simple and plain to lose Mia's interest. She wanted to escape herself from this conversation and save her from the question being raised but Mia was very persistent.

"Love at first sight," Mia exclaimed. "How romantic! I wish I could experience something like that." Mia sighed at the fantasy being narrated to her.

Mia was drowned into the fantasy of falling in love at the first sight with a hand over heart, a giddy excitement spreading over her chest.

"What about Cayden? How is everything going on between you two?" Gabrielle was quick to divert the attention from her unhappy marriage life. The more the conversation proceeded the more agony and depression was dawned on her.

"What about Cayden? Oh please! The only reason I liked him in the past was because of our friendship since childhood. I really thought he was innocent. Why do you think I would ever be with a playboy like him?" She crossed her arms as she sighed with annoyance. "You know what? Can we please not mention that scumbag anymore? Just saying his name out loud is infuriating to me. My brother almost cut off our relations with the Murphy because of him," Mia muttered with annoyance.

After her falling off with Cayden, there wasn't any rational reason to continue contact with them. Mia was happy to oblige.

"You both were childhood sweethearts and that should mean something." Gabrielle looked at her with a relieved smile. She was just glad that Mia's attention was no longer on her, and the conversation was already diverted from her own relationship.

"We're definitely not childhood sweethearts, more like childhood friends." Mia quickly averted her gaze when she mentioned that. She didn't want to admit it, but she had fallen for Cayden before. Driven by lust and the fantasy of true love, she believed that Cayden would be her soul mate. She was blind to the fact that he was horrible for her, and that was a fact she would never be able to let go.

"Were you pregnant when you jumped off the bridge?" Gabrielle didn't realize the reality of the situation before. She was out of her mind when it happened.

"Well, no, it wasn't true," Mia rejected immediately. "It was just my drunken rambling. I was so angry when I came to know he was marrying someone behind my back. I couldn't think straight. I said to spite him." She paused with a sigh before continuing, "Anyway, that's all in the past now and I've cut all ties with him. Good thing I've realized what he really was before it was too late, though. And I know I'm still young. Lots of fish in the sea and all that. I'm sure I will find someone better than him." Despite everything, Mia held her head high. She had already processed what she had gone through, and she learned everything life had taught her till now. 7

Gabrielle admired Mia's attitude and she appreciated her for her positive decisions. 2

"That's definitely true. Look at you. You are pretty both inside and out. You will definitely have good men lined up for you." Gabrielle felt bad for her and wanted to be there for her. But looking at Mia she realized that was rather pointless. 'Mia is a self-dependent person. She doesn't need comforting in this matter,' Gabrielle thought to herself.

"I know, right? I'm smart and pretty. I could do so much better than disloyal Cayden," Mia announced as her face bloomed with confidence.

Realization suddenly dawned on her. If she had truly loved a person, it wouldn't be easy to let them go, and Cayden hadn't crossed her mind in a long time until tonight.

"Gabrielle, I'm feeling good right now. Would you like to drink with me? My treat." She gestured to the waiter and quickly ordered a bottle of one of their most expensive wines for both of them.

"Mia actually I have to drive tonight-"

"Oh, come on. If you drink too much, I will ask my brother to drop you or you can stay with me. Now just drink with me please." Mia poured the wine into a glass and handed it to Gabrielle, not allowing any time for her to argue further on this matter.

"Okay fine," she exclaimed in defeat. "Just a little bit." She couldn't help but notice the agony she felt today. Drinking a little bit was not a bad thing.

"Cheers!" Gabrielle raised her glass in air.

"Cheers! We're going to drink until we pass out." Mia emptied her glass in a few gulps

and grabbed the bottle to pour some more. Despite her reluctance earlier, Gabrielle followed Mia and drowned herself in alcohol.

It was completely black outside and was close to midnight. Both of them were more than tipsy and plastered. Despite all protests from Gabrielle Mia didn't oblige and continued to drown in her wine.

The more the wine passed down their guts Mia the more excited Mia became. As soon as the first bottle of wine got empty Mia ordered another one.

"Mia, it's enough I guess," Gabrielle interrupted.

"But I want to drink more. The wine here is really good." Mia's tolerance for drinking was quite better than Gabrielle's, so a bottle of wine was a piece of cake for Mia.

"Mia, just stay here. I need to use the toilet, and I'll be back soon." Due to all the excessive liquid passing down Gabrielle's stomach she couldn't hold it any longer and went to the bathroom directly.

When Gabrielle came out from the bathroom, she saw two women standing against the wash basin. One was applying lipstick, and the other was washing her hands. The two women were shocked, and they held a spiteful and disgusting look when they

glanced at Gabrielle.

"Gabrielle, it's been a long time since we last met. It was said that the Jones had asked for leave for you because you were sick. I thought you were just scared to come to school." Emily sneered at Gabrielle with a sarcastic laugh.

"You must be ashamed to attend the school. You are afraid of seeing Emily, right? You said that you wouldn't have anything to do with Jax, but you were taken photos of cuddling with Jax. So you dare not to come to school, coward! Bitch!" Cassie's words were so hurting, which grew anger in Gabrielle and it blinded her to a level where she felt like physically hitting in her face.

Seeing these women was the last thing she expected. They were two girls from the other department; one was Emily and the other was Cassie.

Emily liked the school hunk Jax, but he had always been affectionate towards Gabrielle, so she became Emily's top rival in love. No matter where Emily met Gabrielle, she would always bother Gabrielle. ①

Gabrielle didn't expect to meet Emily here. All the worst were dumped on the same day.

"The photos were taken by others maliciously, and they were visual dislocations taken from

an angle. They were misinterpretations. I don't want to explain it to you." Gabrielle didn't want to deal with them anymore, and was about to leave the bathroom.

Cassie blocked Gabrielle from leaving and stared at her fiercely. "Gabrielle, if you have done nothing, why do you want to run away? Why are you feeling guilty? If you have done something, admit it. Jax is the ideal man of all the girls in the school. I don't believe for a second that you have no feelings for Jax. You say that you don't like Jax, but you must have done a lot of things to seduce him secretly. I have seen a lot of hideous women who were duplicitous like you."

Gabrielle was irritated with Cassie's words. Gabrielle's patience was boiling over her veins as her eyes filled with coldness.

"Cassie, are you suggesting that you are also one of those girls who like Jax? You like Jax better than Emily, don't you? In order to prevent Emily from hating you, you are pretending that you don't like Jax, don't you?" Gabrielle snapped back without hesitation.

Cassie's face was immediately flushed and she turned pale hearing Gabrielle's words. "Gabrielle, you're slinging mud at me. Do you even hear yourself? How could I like Jax? He is the ideal man that Emily likes." "Don't try

to drive a wedge between me and Emily!"

"Well, I don't have the time to ruin your relationship. I am just stating the truth. If you both really care about each other how can I be the one creating a wedge between you both just with a word?" Gabrielle crossed her arms over the chest and looked at them with a raised eyebrow.

"Gabrielle, I think you really need a lesson. Your face was scratched by a woman, wasn't it? I think you have messed with men with your seductive manners again. You got the perfect punishment. It would be better if you were scratched and disfigured completely. Then you would become so ugly, that you don't have to come to school altogether. Emily, look at Gabrielle's face. It's so disgusting." Cassie whipped her head towards Emily immediately.



## Chapter 71 Get Out Of The Way

Emily always acted like a princess. She loved the constant attention and flattery, especially by her friend Cassie.

"It's disgusting. Gabrielle, you deserve to be beaten," Emily said arrogantly. In the University, Emily clearly thought she was above all else. As the daughter of the Garcia, she was practically royalty. 4

"Cassie, they say that great barkers are no biters. Can you get out of the way now?" Gabrielle winced uncomfortably. She wanted to get out of here. The strong perfume mixed with the stench of the toilet made her eyes water and nearly suffocated her.

"Gabrielle, do you really want to die? How dare you call me a dog! I'm going to tear your face apart. Or, what's left of it. It's so messed up you won't be able to seduce any men from now on," Cassie said irritably while she approached Gabrielle.

Gabrielle knew what Cassie was about to do and kicked her out of the way. Gabrielle was out of strength, so Cassie merely stumbled and rushed towards her with greater fervor.

"Emily, let's teach her a lesson together today, so that she will have no face to appear in front of Jax again," Cassie instigated Emily.

Upon hearing Jax's name, Emily was instantly enraged and joined Cassie in the fight. 1

Mia had waited Gabrielle for a long time, but Gabrielle hadn't come back. Mia thought that Gabrielle might be in trouble, and she also wanted to go to the toilet, so she came over there.

Mia pushed the bathroom door open and saw two women surrounding Gabrielle. It seemed that Gabrielle had slapped them several times. One of them was red and flushed while the other was a mess. 1

"Gabrielle, what's going on?" Mia's eyes widened as she absorbed the scene and her fighting spirit ignited.

How dare the two women beat Gabrielle?

And it was two versus one.

"Mia, I'm fine..." Gabrielle turned around and glanced at Mia. Cassie took this chance to grab Gabrielle's hair.

"Damn it! How dare you play tricks? Two versus one is quite unfair. I'll help Gabrielle. Then two versus two is fair!" Mia clenched her fists and directly joined the fight. 10

Emily and Cassie had thought that they could have dealt with Gabrielle, but they had never expected that Gabrielle was a formidable

fighter.

Now Mia had come, and Emily and Cassie knew they were immediately at a disadvantage.

Mia was an aggressive person whose fighting spirit only became more evident as she had drunk a little.

Mia grabbed both Mia and Cassie and started hitting them ruthlessly. She pulled their hair, poked them in the eyes, and threw their bodies across the room. Gabrielle stood aside and watched while Mia had her fun with the two girls.

With the merciless flurry of punches and kicks, Mia could only be called one thing.

That was, madman. ②

"Gabrielle, stop this..."

The hit made Cassie nose bleeding. 'What kind of friend did Gabrielle make? Mia was just a fucking lunatic,' Cassie thought.

"Mia, stop, or you'll kill them." Gabrielle couldn't help but stop Mia.

Mia kicked Cassie. With a resounding crack, Mia stopped to gaze at her victim's face. Cassie's formerly perfect nose was now unnaturally bent. Mia snorted. "The artificial

prosthesis is of no quality.

"Let's go, Gabrielle."

Mia grabbed Gabrielle's arm and lead her out the door. As soon as she pushed it open, Mia came face to face with a policeman.

"Greetings, ma'am. We received a tip that there was a group of people gathering to fight here."

"Hey, sir, it is not true. We didn't gather together to fight." Mia was afraid. This wasn't her first run in with the police. She had always had her family to bail her out. But if Micheal knew that Mia was fighting again, he wouldn't let her off.

Damn it! Who the hell called the police?

"Sir! Help! Those two beat us up. My nose is completely broken! Ouch! It hurts!" When Cassie saw the police, she felt a glimmer of hope. She seized this opportunity to turn the story around.

"Sir, it's this woman with a crooked nose who hit my friend first. We needed to defend ourselves. It's not my fault her nose was poorly done that it became crooked all by itself. You should probably go to a better surgeon next time." Mia looked at Cassie with an evil smile. ②

Cassie's temper reached its peak.

"You bitch..."

"Take them all back for a record," the policeman said seriously.

Mia held Gabrielle's hand. "Gabrielle, what do we do now? If my brother knows it, he will not let me off."

"It's okay. I'm here."

They headed to the station and the police took their statements. After waiting for a while, the police asked them to call someone to bail them out.

Gabrielle and Mia looked at each other.

"I don't want my brother to bail me out, or anyone else in the family. If any of my relatives come here, they'll tell my brother about it and I'll die!" Mia's face darkened. She felt that a death sentence was approaching soon.

Gabrielle was amused by Mia.

"Mia, weren't you brave when you fought just now? Why are you so cowardly now?" Gabrielle looked at Mia with a smile.

"Well, we were in a critical situation at that time. How could I allow them to bully my

friend? It is my duty to protect and help you. Those two women were asking for it. They courted death the moment they laid their hands on you. I have no idea... it will alert the police." Mia's voice was barely a whisper at the end.

At that time, all her instincts pushed her to help Gabrielle.

"By the way, Gabrielle, who are you calling to bail you out? Your family, or your husband? How about asking your husband come over, so that I can see what the man who marry you looks like," Mia said excitedly.

Gabrielle's face darkened and her eyes were full of bitterness. How could she ask Westley to bail her out? Westley was in no mood to care about her right now.

"Don't worry about me. Mia, you'd better ask your brother to take you back first. It's late at night. I'm the one who got you into trouble." Gabrielle was really embarrassed. It was Gabrielle's private affair, but she got Mia involved.

"But I don't dare to tell my brother! How about we stay here for one night? The police will let us go back tomorrow." Mia really didn't want to call Micheal.

"Gabrielle, why are you in the police station?" Benny arrived and stopped when he saw

Gabrielle sitting there, staring at the floor.

Gabrielle looked up and saw Benny and a young man beside him.

'Damn it! Is that person Jax?'

Why did Jax come here with Benny?'

"Gabrielle, are you okay? Do you know Benny?" Jax furrowed his brow. When Jax saw Gabrielle, he immediately ran to her to check if she was okay.

"Gabrielle is Sloane's good friend. Gabrielle, I'm Jax's elder cousin." Benny briefly introduced his relationship with Jax.

## Chapter 72 My Husband Is Busy

Gabrielle was a slightly surprised. She didn't expect to find out Jax and Benny were cousins. Either way, this didn't regard Gabrielle.

"I'm fine. I don't need your worries. Jax, are you here for Emily? Tell Emily to stop acting so crazy next time. We don't have anything to do with one another." Gabrielle gazed at Jax with a long face.

Jax's face flushed in pink with embarrassment. He looked at Gabrielle with uneasy eyes. "Gabrielle, there is nothing between us. I have always liked you. Although Emily and I have known each other for a long time, we are just childhood friends. There's really nothing between us. Emily had just called me to bail her out. She wanted to keep this from her family and came to me instead. I had no idea ..." 1

"That woman beat Gabrielle first. Do you see the bruises on our faces? Those two women in there did this! They're crazy! Go back and watch those girls. Don't even bother getting in touch with Gabrielle." When Jax had tried to explain, Mia realized it.

Emily liked Jax, but Jax liked Gabrielle, explaining why Emily resented her. She had ended up taking out this anger and jealousy



on Gabrielle.

"Men are all devils!" Mia exclaimed.

Jax's face burned red. He was taken by surprise. "Miss, I will take full responsibility for both of your injuries."

"Don't bother. Just pay the medical fees. Oh, and don't forget to watch your girl. She's crazy. Warn her that if she messes with anyone like this again, I'll beat some sense into her," Mia fumed.

Jax stood there speechless. "I already told you. She is not my girl..."

"Jax, this is a matter between you and Emily. You two should deal with it on your own. I hope it won't happen again." Gabrielle glanced at Jax. Her eyes were cold and hurt.

"Gabrielle please. Let me take you to the hospital." Jax's eyes wallowed in concern. They glanced at her face, traveling from her tussled hair to her swollen face.

"Don't think you'll faze me with those fake tears. Take your women and leave. One of them I'm sure has a broken nose. As well deserved as it is, the hospital is calling. Perhaps those prosthetics will have to be replaced. It could barely stand a chance; it must be cheap. Considering she's wearing thousands of dollars' worth in clothes, it's a

joke she can't even afford a proper nose job," Mia scoffed.

She couldn't stand anyone that messed with her friends. In her eyes, Jax had this coming from a mile away.

Jax's mouth gaped in shock. 'Why are women so aggressive nowadays?'

"Well, go and bail out Emily and Cassie. Don't worry about us." Gabrielle didn't want to get involved with Jax anymore. It was Emily and Cassie who took the initiative to cause trouble. Gabrielle and Mia wouldn't have had to fight back if they were never provoked.

Jax sighed as his eyes lingered on Gabrielle for a moment more. He stepped away and into the interrogation room, looking for Emily and Cassie.

"Gabrielle, have you called anyone to bail you out?" Benny asked Gabrielle.

Because of what had happened to Sloane, she now loathed Benny. He knew. He could see the aversion on her face.

"Benny, this is none of your business. I don't need your care and I don't need your help. You'd better leave along with those three." She refused to show kindness to Benny. Not after what he did.

Mia had a feeling that there was something bad in the relationship between Gabrielle and Benny. It was quite obvious that Gabrielle had a general distaste towards him.

Despite this, there seemed to be a deep hatred between the two.

"Hey, what's your relationship with that guy?" Mia couldn't help but be curious. She gently elbowed Gabrielle's arm.

"Nothing," Gabrielle said coldly.

If Gabrielle could choose, she wished she had never met Benny. He was a bastard in every way.

"I came by to ask how Sloane is doing," Benny asked hesitantly.

Westley's bodyguards had been guarding Sloane's ward. Benny could hardly even get close to the ward, let alone go in to see Sloane.

He had called Gabrielle to ask about Sloane, but Gabrielle refused to answer the phone and blacklisted him.

Now that Benny had finally caught up to her, let alone even reach her, of course he had to ask.

"Benny, Sloane was seriously injured and is

still in a coma in the ward because of you. I have no idea when Sloane will wake up and it's your fault! Are you happy that your wish came true? Haven't you always hated Sloane and wanted her to die?" Gabrielle had always been good at containing her emotions. When it came to Sloane however, her mind went rampant at the thought of something happening to her.

"Gabrielle, I didn't mean that." Benny gazed at Gabrielle with sad eyes.

"Benny, I have nothing to say to you. Please leave." Gabrielle really didn't want to see Benny right now. She didn't want to think about what had happened or anything of that matter.

Benny looked at Gabrielle, failing to bring himself to speak.

"If it's not convenient for Westley to come over, you know you can tell me and I could just bail you out," Benny offered.

Gabrielle felt furious. Her cheeks burned and her fist curled.

Benny was a bastard. Why should Gabrielle accept his help?

"Thank you for the offer, but I would never accept your help. Even if Westley doesn't come, I'll find a way out." Her eyes burned

with an ice cold glare.

Benny knew what kind of person Gabrielle was. She always looked easy-going, however, she was tough and stubborn. He knew, neither he nor anyone, would be able to change her mind.

If Gabrielle said she didn't need Benny's help, it meant that she really didn't need it.

He knew that if he talked any longer it would only further vex Gabrielle.

"Then I'll take my leave." Benny stepped out.

Mia leaned over and looked at Gabrielle with both concern and curiosity. "That man was really handsome. Who is he? It kind of seems like you guys have some deep hatred between you."

When she heard the words 'deep hatred', the emotions came rushing back. Gabrielle could feel her blood boil.

"Of course, there's a deep hatred between us. My best friend is still unconscious in the hospital because of him. Don't you think I should hate him?" Gabrielle retorted through gritted teeth.

Mia was shocked. She didn't realized this was that man's fault. Her face fell and darkened in displeasure.

"He is really a scumbag. You should stay away from him in case," Mia urged.

"Okay."

"But what should we do now? Should I call my brother?" At the thought of this, Mia's face turned gloomy.

"How about I help you to call Mr. Robinson?" Gabrielle just wanted to tease Mia.

Mia immediately waved her hand. "No, No. you can't call my brother. You'd better ask your husband to come here."

"He's away on a business trip right now. Besides, I don't want him to see me like this," Gabrielle directly rejected.

## Chapter 73 You Are My Legal Wife

A disturbing idea surfaced in Gabrielle's mind. Maybe Westley was still with Holly. If Gabrielle called Westley, she might interrupt their pleasure.

Then Westley would hate Gabrielle even more.

The very thought made Gabrielle feel as if her throat was blocked by shredded newspaper.

"Well, never mind." Mia didn't press Gabrielle any further. To be honest, it would be embarrassing for Gabrielle to let her husband see her like this.

"Gabrielle, I think I should call my brother. Even though he'll tell me off, it's better than staying here all night." Gritting her teeth, Mia took out her phone and dialed Micheal's number.

"Micheal, I'm at the police station with Gabrielle. Come and bail us out." Mia told Micheal the address of the police station and then hung up the phone. <sup>3</sup>

"Gabrielle, my brother is going to skin me alive later. You've got to help me. Your words will definitely work on him." Mia looked at Gabrielle seriously. <sup>4</sup>

Gabrielle could tell that Mia was really scared of her brother.

"Oh, don't worry. When Micheal gets here, I'll protect you. I won't let him hurt you." Gabrielle patted Mia's shoulder gently to comfort her. ②

About ten minutes later, a tall man appeared in front of Gabrielle and Mia. As he stood there, glaring at them, his face darkened and his eyes became like daggers. He looked very angry and intimidating. No wonder that Mia was afraid of Micheal. Even Gabrielle was a little scared now! ④

"Gabrielle, this is my brother," Mia whispered. Mia was such a coward that she had already hidden behind Gabrielle.

"Mia, quit hiding!" Micheal cast a cold glance at Mia over Gabrielle's shoulder.

How could Mia dare to face her brother like this? Mia knew that, if she did, her brother would rip shreds off her, so she stayed where she was and held Gabrielle's arm tightly.

"Gabrielle, please explain to my brother. He'll listen to you," Mia pleaded with Gabrielle.

"Mr. Robinson, well..."

"Miss Jones, I know what you want to say,



but it's not the first time that Mia has made trouble. I got to teach her a lesson." Micheal looked at Gabrielle seriously.

Even if it was Gabrielle who was protecting Mia, Micheal was still determined to show Mia the error of her ways. Recently, Mia had been becoming more and more unreasonable.

"Mr. Robinson, it's my fault Mia fought with the others this time. Those two women have a grudge against me. Plus, they beat me first, so Mia was just helping me get even. If you really want to punish Mia, you should punish me first." Gabrielle raised her hand and straightened her back. She didn't just want to protect Mia; she wanted to truly reason with Micheal.

Gabrielle knew now that it was Micheal's anger driving him to act like this toward Mia. But what was the point of teaching her a lesson like this, so indiscriminately? It was completely unreasonable. How could Micheal do that?

"Miss Jones, are you trying to protect Mia?" It was true that Micheal didn't know the details of what had actually happened. He'd just received a call from Mia, saying that they'd been locked up at the police station, so Micheal had rushed over.

"I'm not defending Mia or what she did. I'm just telling the truth. If you don't believe me,

you can ask the police officer if I'm lying." Gabrielle stared at Micheal, not backing down.

During the bail procedure, Micheal asked the police officer assisting him what had happened. It was just as Gabrielle had described. It was indeed true that the two other women had beat Gabrielle first, so Micheal had jumped to conclusions and misunderstood Mia's actions.

"Micheal, as I said, I didn't make any trouble. It was the two women who were out of line. They bullied Gabrielle first, so I ..."

"Mia, even if that's true, what you did was still wrong. Go wait in the car. I'll take you to the hospital later." After a look toward Mia that precluded any further argument, Micheal turned to Gabrielle.

"Miss Jones, I'll take you to the hospital. I can see you've sustained new injuries on top of old ones. You need to get that taken care of properly." When Micheal spoke to Gabrielle, his tone shifted completely.

"No, thank you, Micheal. It's Mia who helped me tonight. I'm really sorry to have troubled you. You take Mia to the hospital—don't worry about me." 'Why is Gabrielle being so nice to Micheal, after the way he's acted?' Mia thought, annoyed, as she eavesdropped from a few steps away.

"Gabrielle, don't be so polite to my brother. It's no trouble at all, he wants to help. Let's get in the car together," Mia said, returning and holding Gabrielle's hand again.

"No, thanks..."

"Miss Jones." Gabrielle was interrupted by Alvin. 5

As soon as Gabrielle turned and saw Alvin, she looked around automatically, searching for Westley, but she didn't see him. Gabrielle was relieved, but also a little disappointed.

Westley must have known that Gabrielle had got in trouble. Westley almost always knew everything that went down in Antawood. So he likely knew and simply hadn't come to take care of Gabrielle in person.

"Alvin, why are you here? Micheal had bailed me out. You didn't have to come," Gabrielle said politely to Alvin.

"Miss Jones, Mr. Morris is waiting for you in the car," Alvin explained while looking at Gabrielle calmly.

Gabrielle's heart sank. She felt extremely uneasy, as if she had failed her exams and then got in trouble with the teachers and was about to face her parents.

Gabrielle hadn't felt like that for many years, but now it felt all too real. It made her really uneasy.

"I know. Let's go now." Gabrielle had no choice but to follow Alvin.

"Mr. Robinson, thanks for bailing me out. I'm getting out of here now. Bye, Mia." Gabrielle looked at Mia.

"Gabrielle, is your husband here?" Mia peered at Gabrielle curiously. She really wanted to follow Gabrielle to see what her husband looked like.

But Mia knew that if she did that, her brother would definitely skin her alive!

"Mia, I told you to wait in the car. Hurry up!" Micheal cast a sidelong glance at Mia.

Mia pursed her lips with dissatisfaction. But Micheal's authoritative words forced her to turn around and go to his car as instructed. As she did, however, Mia saw that Gabrielle was also following Alvin outside.

"Miss Jones, please get in the car." Alvin opened the door for Gabrielle.

Gabrielle stood beside the car, hesitating.

"Gabrielle, you're such a troublemaker! I leave for a few days and you get yourself

thrown in jail? Get in right now. Or, if you'd prefer to stay at the police station for the night, it's fine with me." Suddenly, a mocking voice came from inside the car.

Gabrielle didn't dare to think too much and got into the car with haste.

When Gabrielle saw Westley sitting there, his expression cold, she knew that he was extremely angry.

"Westley, why are you here?" Gabrielle asked Westley earnestly.

"Well, it seems like you can handle yourself, Gabrielle. You didn't need me to come here at all. Apparently now you can just get arrested and ask someone else to bail you out. You can just do whatever you want, right?" Westley said sarcastically. 5

He sounded livid. 5

Gabrielle knew why Westley was so upset and immediately explained. "Westley, I didn't mean to get arrested. They hurt me first, so Mia helped me fight back. Mr. Robinson came here to bail Mia out. No one was here for me yet, so he bailed me out too. He didn't come here especially for me." 9

"No one? Did you call me? Gabrielle, how could you not ask for my help when you were in such major trouble? Am I your husband or

what? You are MY legal wife now. You don't need other men to bail you out," Westley commanded. 9

## Chapter 74 Why Should I Care About Him

Ever since they got married, Westley was always fond of saying harsh words to Gabrielle, but this time, the way he spoke to her stabbed her right through the heart. This made her speechless for several minutes.

Why would he say that she didn't treat him as her husband? He wasn't even a real husband to her; she was just trying to fill up the gap left by Nellie who was supposed to be married to him. So why should she treat him as her husband? 4

"Well, you were quite busy then." Besides, Gabrielle wasn't so sure that he would come to bail her out because she wasn't like a real wife to him.

"Busy? What do you mean by busy? It was late at night. What did you expect me to be busy with at that time of the night, Gabrielle?" He looked at her in disgust.

'Didn't he know what he was busy with? Do I always have to spell everything out?' she thought to herself. 3

"I just didn't want to cause you any inconvenience. Most importantly, you already warned me that you didn't want to see me

making any trouble." She didn't want to start an endless conversation on why she did what she did so she decided to shoulder the blame.

"If you don't want to cause me any inconvenience as you say, then you should behave yourself!" he yelled at her in anger. ②

"I know."

Gabrielle comported herself and didn't say a word more in order not to upset him again.

"Alvin, drive us to Remy's hospital." He didn't want to talk to her as he was extremely angry with her. 'Why did she like getting into trouble?' he thought angrily.

The old injuries on her face were not fully healed and now; she had new ones. When Remy saw this, he was speechless and didn't know what to say.

"Miss Jones, I was at Vineyard Villa this morning to change the dressing for you. Can you please tell me what happened?" Remy asked Gabrielle while wearing a pair of gloves. He wanted to know how she got more injuries on her face.

Her face was red even though she wasn't choking. She had nothing to say to debunk what Remy said.

He really wanted to know what happened



because not only had she failed to heal her old wounds, but she also added new ones to them.

She felt too guilty to look Remy in the face.

"If you're being bullied by your family, I can help you get the best lawyer in the city. Stop adding new injuries to the ones you already have and keep asking me to help you dress them. I'm on the verge of breaking down," Remy said jokingly. ②

Hearing this, Westley got very angry and spoke to him in a very cold manner. "I asked you to treat and dress her wounds. Can't you be fast about it? You're taking so much time by talking too much. Don't your patients complain about the way you talk?"

"Actually, my patients are very kind, and they adore me very much. So tell me, what happened to your wife's face? If you were not the one who did this to her, then who did? Or did she go out in the middle of the night to fight again?" Remy asked as he looked at Westley.

"Answer the question yourself, Gabrielle," Westley said to her with a sneer on his face. ②

She felt so ashamed of herself that she wished the ground would just open up and swallow her.

This was not the first time she fought with people. She knew that if Remy knew this, he would see her as a little hoodlum who liked to fight. 4

She felt very ashamed.

"Gabrielle, did you fight with people again?" Seeing the redness of Gabrielle's face, Remy knew that he had guessed correctly.

"Ha-ha, it seems that this wife of yours is just a naughty girl who likes fighting so much. You should be more careful, Westley," Remy told him without mincing words.

'What did he mean by saying that Westley should be more careful? Was he trying to say that I am a bad wife?' she thought angrily.

"Why should I be the one to be more careful? If anyone has to be careful, then it should be her. If she keeps fighting with people without thinking about herself, I really won't care if she dies in the process of being beaten up again," he said in annoyance.

Remy smiled a bit. "Gabrielle will feel very bad with the way you're talking. When I went to Vineyard Villa this morning, she ran out with so much joy. But when she saw me, her countenance fell. It seemed like I was not the person she was expecting to see which made her very disappointed." 5

"Remy!" What he said made her very uneasy.

'What did he mean by what he was saying?' she pondered deeply.

"Did I say anything contrary? Can you tell me who you were waiting for this morning, Gabrielle?" Remy said that on purpose.

She took a quick look at Westley and looked away shaking her head vigorously. "I don't know what you're talking about, Remy. I was not waiting for anyone, neither was I expecting someone. Please help me deal with the injuries as quickly as possible."

With that, he didn't say a word more. He began to dress her wounds.

On their way back home, she sat uneasily on the passenger side of the car. Sometimes, she looked straight ahead and at other times, she looked out of the window, but she tried as much as possible to avoid eye contact with Westley.

"You haven't seen me for a few days, Gabrielle. Is it that you don't recognize me anymore or do I look scary to you now?" he asked her as he became uncomfortable with the way she avoided his gaze.

"No." Gabrielle shook her head immediately.

"Who were you waiting for today?" Thinking of what Remy had said some minutes ago, he was very curious to know who she was waiting for.

"I wasn't waiting for anyone. Remy doesn't know what he's talking about." She would never admit it to him. She couldn't tell him that she was waiting for him. If she told him, he would think that she was being hilarious. Why should she be waiting for him?

It might even make him hate her more.

"Really?" It was obvious that he didn't believe what she said. He knew that she didn't want to tell him the truth.

She didn't want them to dwell on the issue anymore, so she changed the topic. "You haven't been home for some days now. Are you so busy with work at the office?"

As she asked him this, she thought of the phone call Holly had answered when she called him.

'Maybe he wasn't so busy with work at the office, but was busy taking care of Holly whose leg was hurt,' she thought as she imagined him pampering Holly.

"When did it become your right to interfere in my private life, Gabrielle? I don't remember giving you such right." He would

never tell her what went on in his life. After all, she was just a substitute wife. 13

She knew that she shouldn't have asked him such a question and immediately regretted it.

"Westley, I don't mean to interfere in your affairs. I am just concerned about your well-being." She wanted to explain to him, but it was hard for her to explain it in a way for him to understand.

She decided not to explain.

"Gabrielle, you'd better remember who you are. Don't take care of things you shouldn't, and I need you to know that you don't have the right to meddle in my private life," he blurted out without caring about how she felt.

Although she felt mistreated by what he said, she had to hide her feelings. She couldn't show it directly, let alone let him know that what he said had hurt her deeply.

"What's the matter? Can't I just scold you?" Seeing the resentful look on her face, he felt a little sorry for her. Seeing her face battered with wounds, his heart softened up a little bit. 14

"I don't mean that Westley, you can say whatever you want to say. It's okay," she said as she choked back her anger.

'How could she pretend to be not angry in this condition?' he reasoned.

"Tell me, what happened? Why did you fight with people again? Are you a ruffian? Why do you always like fighting with other people?" When he heard that she had a fight with women in the toilet of the restaurant and was sent to the police station, he was really angry and wondered why she would do such a thing.

It seemed that he had married a trouble maker, not a wife. She made trouble almost every day, so he was thinking about asking her to go back to the Jones. 2

She was amused by what he had said. She wanted to laugh, but dared not so as not to anger him.

"I'm not a ruffian. It was those two women who beat me first. If they didn't do it first, I wouldn't have fought them. I'm not an easily intimidated woman." Although she still felt bad because of the way he spoke to her at first, she became a little happy when she saw that he seemed to care about her. 4

He was not as ruthless as he claimed to be and was very concerned about her.

## Chapter 75 Care About Her

"So, why did you do that?" Westley didn't understand why he cared so much about Gabrielle's affairs.

"Because the man Emily likes, fancies me instead, so she's out to make trouble for me". Gabrielle felt a tinge of shame, so she spoke in a low voice.

Regardless of her quietly spoken voice, Gabrielle could still be heard out of earshot range from where they were sitting.

Westley frowned, half rolling back his eyes in annoyance. As expected, they had fought because of a man again.

Was Gabrielle destined to be a stunner when she grew up?

"Are you showing off in front of me?" Westley said icily.

Gabrielle stared at Westley. She didn't comprehend what he had meant. "I'm not trying to show off," said Gabrielle defiantly. "You asked me the reason, and the reason is ..."

"I'm really not interested in what you have to tell me," Westley interrupted Gabrielle rudely.

Gabrielle was trying to explain, but after being interrupted so coarsely, she suddenly didn't want to talk anymore.

Gabrielle had nothing further to say to Westley. She had thought too highly of him to expect anything different, but she was taken aback by his attitude.

There was an eerie silence as they traveled by car to the Vineyard Villa.

Neil was confused when Westley and Gabrielle returned home together. It was late.

"Mr. Morris, Miss Jones, oh my! Why have you both returned? Didn't you say that you were going to see some of your friends?" Neil looked to Gabrielle hoping for an answer.

He was not expecting that Gabrielle would come back here tonight.

"Gabrielle had gone to see her friend, and they had fought with some others, so the police locked her up. I went to the police station to pick her up". Westley spoke in a strange tone and then went directly upstairs.

Gabrielle was so embarrassed by what Westley had just said that she hadn't the courage to look at Neil.

"Miss Jones, are you ok? Have you hurt your



face again?" Neil stared at Gabrielle's face, with a look of concern. He wanted to say to Gabrielle, 'Why does a girl like you want to fight?', but Neil was afraid that it would hurt Gabrielle's pride, so he kept quiet.

"Yes, I'm ok thanks Neil. I received several wounds as a result of the fight, but they have been treated by Remy." Gabrielle looked back at Neil with an aggrieved stare.

"Well. It's getting late Miss Jones, so off to your room and have a good rest. Don't deal with this trouble by yourself next time. You can tell Mr. Morris, as most of the people in Antawood will show their respect to Mr. Morris." Neil was deeply worried about the wounds to her face.

Gabrielle's skin was fair, and the previous wounds on her face hadn't completely healed. Now she had some fresh wounds to contend with. Who are these people that beat Gabrielle? They were so very cruel.

"I... I wouldn't dare to ask Mr. Morris for help. I'm afraid that he will be quite angry with me." Although Gabrielle was telling the truth, it would not be understood by Westley if he heard it.

"Did you not think that I would be angry that you got your face all messed again, and that you would need someone like me to go to the police station to get you out and to give you a

lift home?" Westley's cold voice came again like ice from behind Gabrielle.

Gabrielle let out a shiver. She shouldn't have talked about Westley behind his back.

"I didn't mean to say that. I just..."

"Gabrielle, if you insist on making similar trouble again, I will ask the Jones to take you back. Then you will get out of Antawood with the Jones," Westley said sternly, glaring directly at Gabrielle.

Gabrielle felt her herself trembling and nodded weakly. "I know. I promise I won't cause you any further trouble in the future."

"Neil, go and make me a cup of coffee." Then, Westley turned around and headed to the study.

Gabrielle suddenly realized what was happening. She looked at the time and realized Westley was still working, and it was almost one o'clock in the morning.

"Westley," said Gabrielle, "it's so late. Don't you go to bed?" Gabrielle had asked Westley the question subconsciously.

"I still have unfinished business. You can go to bed first or do you want me to sleep with you?" Westley looked back at Gabrielle with a slightly devilish look.

Gabrielle was nervous and her face flushed with embarrassment. Gabrielle hadn't asked Westley to sleep with her. She turned, said good night to Neil and ran upstairs.

Gabrielle ran so fast that she almost lost her footing.

Her stumbling startled Neil. Fortunately, Gabrielle didn't fall. She quickly disappeared from Neil and Westley's sight.

"Mr. Morris, you care about Miss Jones, don't you?" Neil said, looking at Westley.

Westley was a little taken aback as he looked directly at Neil. "Neil, so why do you think that I care about Gabrielle?"

"Don't you care for Miss Jones? I can tell that you do." Neil was serious. He could say anything in front of Westley. After all, Westley had to show respect to Neil.

"Neil, there's no need for me to care for her. She's my nominal wife now, so I can't let anyone bully her. Bullying her means bullying me and I can't let that go." Westley spoke calmly. He just wanted Neil to know that he helped Gabrielle not because of caring for her, but because she was his nominal wife. <sup>11</sup>

If it wasn't for Gabrielle's identity, Westley

wouldn't care about her at all.

Neil didn't say anything more. He knew that Westley was just stubborn.

"Ok Mr. Morris, I'll make coffee for you later. Do you need anything else?" Neil changed the topic. If he continued to talk about Gabrielle, it would only make Westley angrier.

"Can you bring me another pot of water?"

"Mr. Morris, you can do your work tomorrow."  
Neil was worried about Westley.

Since Westley had taken over the company, he'd become a workaholic. He worked night and day without resting.

But it would make Westley collapse from exhaustion.

"This was supposed to be today's work. Well, I'll go in." Westley didn't want to explain anymore. He turned around and went into the study.

If Westley hadn't gone to the police station to pick up Gabrielle, he mostly likely would have finished his work.

His picking up Gabrielle, had delayed Westley from finishing his work.

Returning to her room, Gabrielle went

directly to the bathroom, and stood in front of the washbasin. She looking at herself in the mirror with gauze all over her face.

It was horrible!

The wound was wrapped in a transparent gauze, but now it was covered with white gauze. She surmised that she will have to stay at home for a few more days before she could see anyone, otherwise, she would scare people to death if they saw her like this.

'Gabrielle, how utterly shameful you are! This is the first time that I've fought with others. How could I be arrested and taken to the police station, and have to ask someone to bail me out?

But I would not have predicted that Westley was the one to pick me up in person.'

Oh, what did Westley think of Gabrielle now? Would this cause Westley to hate Gabrielle more, and to think that she was a trouble maker?

Gabrielle felt a strong headache coming on, the more she thought about her episode, so she took a shower and went to bed. To her, this was the best solution to forgetting her blues. However, in Gabrielle's dream, Westley was there humiliating and bullying her. Restless, she was awake before the dawn.