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As the movie became a hit, Clarissa was invited to attend the celebratory party by Justin.

In a large private room, the film crew, Clarissa and family, as well as their friends were all there celebrating. Therefore, it was packed to the brim.

Other than the main actors, Clarissa was the one who attracted the most attention.

"Here comes Mr. and Mrs. Tyson. Until now, both of you are still trending online. In fact, I suspect that you intend to enter the showbiz by publicly displaying your affection..."

Henry was in a good mood today. Evidently, his relationship with Yaala was progressing well.

Hence, he was quick to tease the couple.

However, Clarissa didn't take it lying down. She countered with a smile, "Mr. Jackson, you should take your hands off Ms. Zaha's waist before saying something like that. Have you forgotten that you were spotted staying overnight at her place? Don't you need to deal with the controversy?"

"Oh, Ms. Zaha, I wasn't talking about you, just Mr. Jackson," Clarissa added, rubbing it in.

Yaala didn't seem to be bothered by the banter, as if she had nothing to do with it at all.

She shrugged her shoulders. "Mmm-hmm, I understand."

Henry felt abandoned. "Yaala, you were the one I spent the night with..."

"Hahaha... Mr. Jackson, you accused me of flaunting my relationship. Aren't you doing the same?"

Everyone burst into laughter and took a drink. Only then did they change the topic.

The only one missing from the celebration was Shermaine. Lucky for her, the producers kept her scene in the movie. In fact, the screening of the movie had generated some publicity for her.

Many netizens, especially her fans, looked past her character flaws and complimented her acting.

However, there were also those that weren't willing to give her a chance because of her crimes.

Despite reading the comments, Clarissa wasn't bothered by them. She was just surprised that someone would bring up Shermaine at the event.

"I just saw her a few days ago and wonder if she intends to reenter the showbiz. Even if she intends to, who would want her? She is a murderer. Do you know how terrifying is that? If you're not careful and had somehow offended her, you might be killed..."

"Stop exaggerating. Can't you give her a chance to turn over a new leaf? Furthermore, she wasn't the one that did the deed..."

"Tsk-tsk, aren't you being too forgiving? Are you not afraid? Enough, let's not talk about her anymore. She has made a lot of enemies of the guests here..."

The group even snuck a glance in Clarissa's direction, thinking that she didn't hear them. In truth, they spoke so loudly that everyone around them did.

Humans were always hypocritical. The more they assumed they were gossiping discreetly, the more suspicious they actually looked.

Feeling amused, Clarissa let out a smile. Matthew, who was chatting with Jeremy, turned around and glanced at her.

He asked, "What are you smiling at?"

"Why do you care? Stop watching me all the time, you should continue chatting with your friends."

After that, Clarissa got up and walked toward Justin and Yaala. Her purpose today wasn't just to celebrate, but also to talk about work.

Meanwhile, Matthew's gaze would follow Clarissa wherever she went. No one noticed in the beginning. But after a while, it became obvious enough.

"Matt, can you be more reserved? Haven't you seen her enough at home?"

Jeremy couldn't resist teasing him. They only have eyes for each other and no one else.

Stretching his legs, Matthew broke out into a smile. "It will never be enough."

"Tsk-tsk..."

Everyone within earshot rubbed their arms when they felt goosebumps all over.

"Matt, how did both of you maintain your relationship to the extent you can still make us cringe? Do you really like her that much? Don't you ever get tired of her?"

Raising his eyebrows, Matthew's gaze darkened. "Why should I?"

Jeremy and the others were stumped when Matthew threw the question back at them.

He really does live in a different world from us. Doesn't everyone get tired of their partner after being together for a long time? Why does he even need to ask? It's self-explanatory, isn't it?"

However, Matthew's question had demonstrated to them that such thoughts never crossed his mind.

What is he thinking?

After all, it was always hard to see things from another's perspective.

Matthew was essentially a loyal man. Therefore, he would never get tired of Clarissa.

Evidently, these two men had very different attitudes toward women. Hence, they would never be on the same page.

Meanwhile, Clarissa was aware that Matthew was looking at her. But, she didn't mind as she was just too busy to do so.

"Director Yates, I would like you to be the producer for my movie. Although it's still in the early stages, I wanted to invite you to do so first. That way, it will give my confidence a needed boost."

Justin replied with a smile, "Of course, I can. After all, I don't have much on my plate lately."

"That's wonderful, Director Yates. With you behind me, I will have the courage to go ahead with the movie."

"Clarissa, can I be the female lead then?" Yaala remarked jokingly.

However, Clarissa responded with an awkward expression.

"Ms. Zaha, I can't afford you."

Despite telling the truth, she had another reason not to. Her intention was to find someone younger to play the role.

However, it would have been rude to be candid about it.

"I'm just kidding. In fact, I don't even dare commit as it's your directorial debut. But, if you need me for some minor roles, just let me know. I'm more than happy to help."

"Thank you, Ms. Zaha."

Consequently, Clarissa achieved her objective today. Justin not only agreed to be her producer, but also offered to lend her his team.

Late in the evening, Clarissa had too much to drink as she was overjoyed at the progress.

When it was time to leave, she giggled non-stop in a drunken stupor with Matthew holding her in his arms.

Just when Matthew helped her in the car, she grabbed onto him at once. Clawing her way around, she hugged him tightly and refused to let go. As their car was on its way out, everyone was amused by how domineering she was.

"I'm surprised to see Clarissa being more dominant than Matthew."

Meanwhile, Matthew liked it when she was woozy.

Whenever the alcohol got to her head, she would behave more passionately, just like a sexy and adorable kitten. It was certainly a great way to spice up their relationship.

Therefore, while they were still in the car, Clarissa took the initiative and rode on his lap. She kissed him incessantly as if she was a nymph let loose.

"Hubby, Uncle Matthew, Mr. Tyson, hehe... how would you like me to address you?"

Clarissa's dreamy eyes were mesmerizing to look at. A single glance or breath from her was enough to cause Matthew to stiffen up.

Meanwhile, she teased him mischievously without a care for what the consequences were.

With his hands caressing her neck, he replied with a husky voice, "You can call me anything you wish."

"Hehe... in that case, I'll call you Old Man!"

Matthew's lips twitched before placing his hand behind her head and kissing her passionately.

During a time like this, idle chatter was meaningless. It was better that they didn't waste time and get right down to business.

Right after Matthew's car left, Shermaine stepped out of the club.

Her friend who was beside her advised, "Shermaine, forgive me for being blunt, but isn't it better that you take over the family business? After all, it really isn't easy for you to re-enter showbiz. Even if you did, you will not be able to reach the heights of your previous popularity. Isn't it obvious that they want nothing to do with you when they didn't invite you

to the celebration? Also, many in the circle are close to Clarissa and would definitely not want to offend her. In that case, who would dare hire you?"

Shermaine wasn't angry about it. After a brief silence, she simply smiled.

"You're right. I'm not really harboring any hopes too. Anyway, I'm just happy to catch up with you today."

Her friend couldn't help but sigh when she saw the state Shermaine was in.

"Shermaine, I didn't expect you to have changed so much. You... have become calmer now. However, don't be too hard on yourself. You come from a good family, and showbiz is a messy industry, to begin with. I think you should go back to running the family business. I'm really envious of that..."

Shermaine shook her head. "Mmm-hmm, I understand. Anyway, I need to take my leave now. Shall I get my driver to send you home?"

The friend shook her head. "Thanks, but there's something else I need to do."

With that, she turned and walked back in. However, Shermaine didn't leave immediately. Instead, she waited for a while before following her.

"Haha... is Shermaine finally gone?"

"Yes. The way she thinks is ridiculous. Does she still think she can still make it in showbiz after going to prison? Damn it, she was never this naive. Did she hit her head in prison?"

"Haha... she has probably lost her mind. Just now, she even smiled at me and thanked me. Tsk-tsk, to think that she used to be a b*tch to everyone. F*ck, she is a criminal for goodness sake. Does she still think she's a famous actress?"

"Sheesh, what a shame. Given that her family is rich, she can still be a boss even if she is no longer an actress."

"So what? It's just a small company. Don't forget there's still bad blood between her and Mrs. Tyson. If Mrs. Tyson wants her down, all it takes is a snap of her fingers. By then, it would be interesting to see how she ended."

"Enough, it's bad to gossip so much about her. Her life has been miserable enough, and yet, we are kicking her while she's down..."

"So what?"

"... this is just too much fun! Hahaha..."

Everyone in the private room laughed heartily as they weren't aware that Shermaine was standing at the door. Despite being humiliated by their words, she maintained the smile on her face.

For the entire session, they never stopped gossiping and ridiculing her.

If she hadn't been interrupted by her ringing phone, she would likely have stayed and listened further.

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With regards to Clarissa's ambition to become a director, it was a journey that would take some time. Given how new she was, she had made impressive progress by being able to start filming within a year.

The first thing she needed to do was to look for investors.

For the initial stage, she already had two major shareholders backing her.

For the subsequent investment, Tyson Corporation offered to invest however much she needed, causing her to feel undecided as to whether she should accept.

Actually, she wasn't keen on Matthew investing in her movie. After all, it was her first time directing a movie, and she didn't want to take advantage of her family in case she failed.

However, Matthew had a very good reason.

"The movie will be about our love story. No matter how good or bad it is, I must invest in it. If I don't, wouldn't I have benefited other men?"

Clarissa didn't know whether to laugh or to cry.

What does he mean by benefiting other men? It's not funny at all.

However, given how adamant Matthew was, there was no way she could bring herself to reject him. After all, it would be stupid to turn down money for her movie.

Having received the necessary funds, she got her team together and started building the movie sets. It was going to be another massive project.

Luckily, she had secured the help of Justin's team, which saved her a lot of time and money.

With the preparation work underway, Clarissa began to focus on the cast which she had no experience in selecting.

By then, her novel had been released to great fanfare. In the promotional material, it was just described as a romantic novel. Nevertheless, everyone automatically assumed the story was about her relationship with Matthew.

Naturally, the marketing team took advantage of the situation by promoting it being a token of love from her to her husband.

With that statement alone, the novel was sold out at the pre-order stage.

Even though the publishing firm had prepared a huge number of books to satisfy the pre-orders, the demand greatly exceeded their expectations still.

Hence, they had no choice but to get the factory to work overtime and print more copies.

Moreover, there wasn't an e-book version available. It was done on purpose so that the publishing firm could make significantly more profits.

When the novel was released, Clarissa stated in the postface that she was going to adapt the story into a movie. She hoped that her fans would stay tuned and look forward to it.

This time, Clarissa poured everything into scaling up her projects.

However, there were some who liked it and some who didn't.

Those who didn't were either jealous or felt that she was trying to milk her fans' money. They had the impression that she was fooling around with her money by being both an author and a director at the same time.

To avoid letting such comments affect her mood, she avoided reading any of them and focused on her work instead.

She didn't mind if she wasn't understood by others. What really mattered was that she did whatever she wanted to.

Consequently, she became so popular that everyone saw her as the paragon of a successful woman.

After all, she had a loving husband, an adorable son, and a skyrocketing career.

In the process of becoming the center of envy of the masses, there would undoubtedly be haters too.

Margaret was furious at the recent developments.

The Tysons had been made to look like fools being manipulated by Clarissa.

Even though they seemed to have ruined her three years ago, she was now basking in glory with Matthew in the palm of her hands.

She owed her success to Matthew.

If not for him, she wouldn't have been so famous, let alone possess the financial resources to produce a movie. Until then, Margaret felt that Clarissa's success was solely due to Matthew's support from behind the scenes. She didn't believe that Clarissa had any talent at all.

Hence, she felt Clarissa was exacting revenge on them by flaunting her fame.

To the Tysons, she had not only cheated on Matthew, but leveraged Matthew's support to gain fame for herself. Given that she was now a movie director, everyone praised her for her success and was envious of her life. In fact, they even wanted her son to take over the Tysons' assets.

Margaret would be outraged every time she thought about it. This was definitely Clarissa's sweetest revenge over them.

"George, will you just look at her. What do you think she wants? Is she doing all these just to rub it in our faces?"

Recently, George was also in a foul mood. It was bad enough that the adorable grandson wasn't theirs. And then, Clarissa had to taunt them with such fanfare.

Most of his old friends were aware that they didn't accept Clarissa. Given how successful she was now, he had become the laughing stock among them.

I'm really old now. So what if I'm upset? Matthew has always been headstrong, and no one has ever been able to stop him.

"What can you do about it then?"

"1..."

Margaret was stumped.

However, she was infuriated by the chaos Clarissa brought to their family, to the extent she felt she couldn't die in peace.

"But, we can't just allow her to harm Matthew, can we?"

To them, Matthew was a gullible son who was willing to give up everything for Clarissa while she took advantage of him as best as she could.

"By choosing to love her, Matthew has willingly put himself in harm's way. There's nothing we can do. I'm afraid we will just have to accept her."

"But... but, at the very least, don't let our assets fall into her hands. George, you have to think of something."

What can we do?

"George, since Matthew loves her so much, we can't rule out accepting her. Besides, it's not we like can break them up. But, we must have a condition. Damian cannot inherit the Tyson family's assets. Unless she bears him another child. Or else, she won't get a penny."

To them, the inheritance had become the largest issue.

Despite resenting Clarissa still, they were resigned to accepting her given the circumstances.

The truth is, she is a vixen that has bewitched our son.

Even though we have accepted her, shouldn't we at least have a limit?

George seemed to agree with Margaret's suggestion.

However, Margaret added, "We can't let Matthew decide as he might not agree. After all, he loves Clarissa a lot and treats Damian as his own. Hence, there's no way we can stop him. Why don't I contact her personally instead? If she really loves Matthew, she would agree to bear his child. We can then accept her unconditionally, and she would be grateful for being able to stay on as Mrs. Tyson. If she doesn't agree, she has no right to blame us anymore. After all, we now know that her son isn't Matthew's."

Margaret felt that they were in the right with regard to the matter.

Hence, by dealing with Clarissa directly, they could resolve this behind Matthew's back.

Although they were old, they still had resources at their disposal. After all, they weren't the kind that would become powerless just because they had reached old age.

.Therefore, they didn't need to meet with Clarissa in person

All they needed was to convey their demands to her.

Consequently, Clarissa received their message in the midst of her busy schedule.

After staring at the DNA report in her hands, she gave the person in front of her a puzzled look.

"Ms. Quigley, George wants to let you know that he is willing to look past the child's identity given how much Matthew loves you. However, the child can only carry the Tyson name but not inherit the Tyson fortune. As for you, you will need to bear him another heir. Or else, this son will not inherit anything. Also, George would like to remind you about how much Matthew loves you given that he treats your son as his own. Hence, he hopes that you will think on Matthew's behalf and not let his feelings go in vain."

Clarissa was still baffled.

"As long as you promise to be loyal to Matthew, the Tysons will let the past slide and acknowledge you."

Initially, Clarissa thought that the DNA report was the Tysons' ploy for humiliating and getting rid of her.

Hence, she didn't understand the rationale behind their demands.

Does this mean that they think the DNA report is real and they were not the ones to fake it?

Did they change so much within three years that they can accept me cheating on Matthew?

Clarissa was extremely amused by it. What are they thinking?

"Ms. Quigley?"

Clarissa looked at the person and sneered, "So, do the two elders really think my son isn't Matthew's?"

"Ms. Quigley, the DNA test was conducted under extremely secretive circumstances. Hence, you don't have to explain yourself as the facts are clear. All you need to do is to agree to their demands and you will be able to obtain more benefits. Or else, once the DNA report is made public, your reputation will be ruined."

"Haha..."

Clarissa chuckled.

"Alright. Let me think about it. You can go now."

The moment the person left, Clarissa called Matthew at once. She quipped, "Matthew, since when is my son not yours?"

Just as she spoke, she suddenly felt awkward doing so.

"No, I mean Damian. Why is he no longer your son? Did you know about the DNA report all this while? What's going on? You owe me an explanation right now."

Matthew could sense a storm brewing from her tone.

He replied at once, "Alright, don't worry. I'll come home and explain it to your right away."

Still on the line, Matthew got up and left his office. Along the way, he continued to pacify her.

"Clare, don't be mad. I was not bothered by the report and obviously didn't believe it. The only reason I didn't tell you was that I didn't want to enrage you."