

My Three Darlings by Anonymous

Chapter 21

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Chapter 21

When they walked out of the restaurant, they saw a black *Maserati* parked outside.

Braint let go of Eliza's hand and went straight to the passenger's seat. Eliza had no choice but to open the door of the back seat. At the back seat, Beau was sitting there in silence as he stared at his laptop sternly.

Although they had been married for some time, Eliza couldn't help but admire his beauty whenever she saw his impeccable facial features. "Why are you here..." He didn't even raise his head. Still concentrating on the computer screen, he tapped on the keyboard gently. "As a parent, I have to go to the police station in person when my son is in trouble."

Eliza pursed her lips and sat inside. "Are you aware of what happened?"

Beau stopped what he was doing and turned to fixate his gaze at her. "Do you really think the kids can get a ten-karat diamond ring without my permission?" A

Eliza was dumbfounded. The children wouldn't be able to do that.

A ten-karat ring was not something a child could afford. No matter how rich the Valentine family was, Beau wouldn't spoil his children like that.

"Are you in it as well?"

Beau put away the laptop and leaned back comfortably on the leather seat. He said indifferently, "Declan has done some investigation about the incident yesterday. Turns out it has something to do with your sister." "She's a smart one. She erased all the evidence about her relationship with Michael Lewis. She even used Luca's phone number to contact him for the crime."

Eliza squeezed her palms nervously.

She couldn't believe it.

Esme really did have something to do with that incident!

Beau tried to reassure her, "Right now, we haven't been married for long. If I retract my investment from Lawson's group now, the public will turn on us because we don't have enough evidence to use against them. Besides, your reputation is on the line as well." For some reason, his voice alone reflected his maturity, which gave Eliza a sense of security.

Upon hearing his words, she felt warm inside. All this while, Eliza thought that Beau had a cold and indifferent personality.

Besides conducting a thorough investigation about that incident, he had also considered Eliza's reputation if he went against the Lawson family. She pursed her lips and looked into his eyes. "Thank you." "Mommy, he's your husband. You don't have to thank him." As soon as she finished speaking, Braint, who was sitting in the front seat, said indifferently, "You should be thanking us instead."

"Demarion is the one who wants to seek revenge for you and I am the one who designed the entire scheme. Daddy is only responsible for sponsoring us 10 thousand dollars and a ring. Compared to our efforts, that's nothing."

Eliza tried to suppress her laughter.

Beau raised his eyebrows and asked, "Do you really think you can pull this off without my support?"

"Yes, I can."

Braint's immature voice reflected maturity and determination that did not match his age. "If I told grandpa that I want to buy a ring for mommy in your stead, he will definitely sponsor me for that."

Beau narrowed his eyes and he stopped talking.

Eliza was dumbfounded as she watched from the side,

Did Braint just win the argument?

She peeked at Beau furtively.

He was leaning on the leather seat with his eyes closed. It seemed like he was resting.

Was he tired from work, or was he just tired of arguing with Braint?

The car engine sputtered to life.

Inside the car, Eliza's phone kept ringing.

It was notifications about the news.

While she was in a relationship with Jay in the past, she was worried about the media outlets broadcasting negative news about Jay. That was why she made it a habit of watching the news every day.

Since the atmosphere in the car was quite depressing, she scrolled through the news to lighten up her mood.

The media platforms were filled with a scandal involving Esme Lawson!

“Who would’ve known that the only heir of Lawson’s Group would swindle money from an underage child? Shocking news indeed!”

“Did you say that she stole the ten-karat ring? Isn’t she born into a prestigious family? Why would do something like that?”

“In a logical sense, how would she be punished for her crime?”

“Such a deplorable act!”

The Internet was full of news about Esme’s scandal. Someone had released the video footage from the restaurant as well.

Even Esme and Demarion’s chat history was released to the public.

Eliza clicked on the screenshots and scanned through them one by one.

She was boiling with anger.

Esme deserved all the negative comments as stated in the media uproar. In the chat history, she did ask Demarion for money, and she did it more than once. Apart from Demarion hiding his real age, Esme was the one who instigated all the crimes. She even wrote this. “Your mom is already an old lady. The diamond ring wouldn’t suit her anymore.”

“Give it to me. Since your family is loaded, I’m sure your parents won’t blame you for stealing it.”

Squeezing her phone, Eliza was about to explode in fury.

Although she knew that Demarion and Braint were the real culprits, Eliza still found it hard to accept that Esme would do something like that.

In the past, Luca did tell Eliza that growing up, Esme got into the habit of stealing after she got acquainted with some gangsters in the neighborhood.

Even after she returned to the Lawson family, her old habits were still hard to erase. It was just disgusting!

Looking at the overwhelming insults on the Internet, Eliza felt elated.

Soon, the car arrived at the police station.

As soon as she got out of the car, Eliza saw Riley’s car, which was parked not far away.

It seemed that the news had reached Riley. It was serious enough for him to come to the police station in person.

"I'll stay in the car."

While sitting in the passenger's seat, Braint opened his laptop and put on his headphones. "I won't go in to stir trouble, since I look exactly like Demarion."

"Alright."

Only then did Beau open his eyes and get out of the car.

Eliza did the same as she trailed from behind.

"Please! You need to reinvestigate this entire incident! This is just impossible!"

"My daughter is kind and innocent, how could she do such a thing!"

Presley burst into tears. "There must be something wrong with that kid!"

"My daughter would never do such a thing!"

"The evidence is conclusive!" The policeman reprimanded Presley. "Right now, your daughter is still unwilling to take off that diamond ring!" Presley wiped off her tears as she turned to look at Esme. "Esme, can you just..."

"I won't!"

Esme lowered her head and held a firm grip on the ring. "That kid gave it to me! It's mine! I will not give it back to him!"

"That's not a gift. You swindled it from a child." A man said with a low and magnetic voice.

Esme and Presley looked up immediately. At one glance, they knew where that voice came from. With his oppressing aura and unique looks, he stood out amongst the crowd.

He was walking towards them now.

Esme widened her eyes in disbelief.

"Isn't he..."

"Isn't he the man in the picture? Isn't he Rodolfo Ball?" Esme thought. When Esme saw that photo, she fell in love at first sight. That was why she was foolish enough to start dating that child.

Now that she had seen the real person, she realized that he looked a lot more handsome than in the photos! She was deeply attracted by his cold and domineering aura. "What a handsome man,"

Presley gasped.

"Mr. Valentine."

The two policemen greeted Beau politely. Then, they turned to look at Presley and Esme. "This is Mr. Valentine, Demarion's father." "You should talk it out with him if you don't want to make this a big issue." After that, the policeman turned and left. Esme stared at Beau with her eyes wide open. Presley tugged at Esme and she came back to her senses almost instantly. She stuttered out the words, "Hello, Mr. Valentine. Are you a married man?" Esme regretted her choice of words immediately. His child was already five years old. How could he still be single? Beau smiled indifferently. "I just got married a while ago." He pulled his wife, who was hiding behind him, and introduced her to them, "This person here is my wife, Eliza Lawson."

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The surroundings quieted down instantly.

Esme and Presley looked at the couple in shock. Then, they stared at each other in disbelief.

"Are... are you Mr. Valentine?"

Esme mustered up her courage and asked.

Beau smiled and placed his hand on Eliza's shoulder, "Yes, that's me."

Presley was so shocked she couldn't even speak!

"How is this possible?" she thought.

The whole reason Presley forced Eliza to get married in Esme's stead was that Mr. Valentine was a cruel and ugly monster!

Rumors had it that the fire had wrecked him, both inside and out.

Now, the monster was standing before them, but he was nothing as the rumors described. Beau had incredibly handsome looks which radiated his intimidating aura.

"Honey, let me introduce you to my family."

Eliza wrapped her arm around Beau and smiled proudly. "This person here is my stepmother, Presley Stafford. The other one is my stepsister, Esme Lawson."

Beau raised his eyebrows and smiled. "Oh, my apologies. I didn't know they are your family."

"Don't worry, I won't make things difficult for you." He shifted his gaze to the ring on Esme's finger. "However, you still have to return that ring to me. It's a wedding gift I prepared for my wife."

Esme gritted her teeth and clenched her fists in anger.

That ring should have belonged to her!

She should've been the one married to Beau.

"Eliza, that b*tch! How dare she snatch my man away!" Esme thought. 2

"Since we're a family, we shouldn't be that hard on each other right?"

Presley walked towards Beau and laughed sheepishly, "Mr. Valentine, you're a rich man. I'm sure a ten karat ring means nothing to you."

"Can you treat it as a gift to Esme instead?"

Eliza frowned. How could these people be that shameless? Her request was just preposterous! That was a ten-karat ring! It wasn't cheap!

"I'm sorry."

Beau glanced at Presley. "I don't have the habit of gifting." I

"Besides, I specially prepared this ring for my wife." He looked calmly at Esme. "And..." "You don't deserve it." Esme's complexion turned pale as she backed off, "Why do you have to be so rude?"

"Why don't you think about what you've done to Eliza?" Beau said while smiling.

Esme looked into Beau's eyes. Facing his intimidating aura, a chill went down her spine.

It was as if he could see through all her secrets with his penetrating gaze.

She quickly lowered her head. "I don't understand what you mean." Beau continued smiling and said, "I thought Matthew has made things clear with you today." Esme trembled with fear.

Finally, she was on the same page with Beau.

Beau was teaching her a lesson after what she did to Eliza yesterday. "I thought he hates women and tortured his previous two fiances before," Esme thought. "Why is he so kind to Eliza?"

"Miss Lawson."

Beau said sternly, "Are you planning to return the ring to me?"

Esme bit her lower lip. Even though she was reluctant to give up the ring, she still did as told. The Lawson family could not afford to offend Mr. Valentine any further than this. Because of what Esme did, Valentine's Group had already reduced half the amount of funds distributed to the Lawson family.

Finally, she returned the ring to Beau.

Eliza heaved in a deep breath. She could feel the weight falling off her shoulders.

She turned around as she planned to ask the police officer for Demarion's whereabouts.

"Eliza."

Beau pulled her back into his arms.

She slammed her cheeks against his chest almost instantly.

Covering her painful nose, Beau held her right hand before she could say anything further.

Then, he slid the ring into her index finger. 2

The way he put on the ring for her was gentle and elegant. He was so charming everyone just couldn't get their eyes off him.

Staring at his face, Eliza was stunned beyond words. "Now is the time for the bride and groom to exchange rings!"

Suddenly, a child's voice echoed from beside.

Eliza came to her senses and looked for the source of the sound. Less than two meters away, Demarion was taking pictures of them with his phone while smiling happily.

The surrounding police officers also gave them a round of applause.

Looking at the strangers beaming with joy while congratulating her marriage, Eliza was flushed red.

She was so embarrassed that she wanted to dig a hole and hide in it.

Suddenly, Beau pulled her into his warm embrace. "You should lean on me, or else others will notice that you're blushing,"

Beau chuckled as he said with a low voice.

Feeling nervous, Eliza gritted her teeth. She knew that he was laughing at her!

However, there was nothing she could use to cover her face now.

Enjoying the warmth of his body, Eliza closed her eyes and leaned on his chest.

The two of them were so close that she could hear the rhythm of his heartbeat and his breathing.

After a long time, the surroundings quieted down and the air seemed fresher than before.

"Mommy, how long do you want to stay in daddy's arms?" Demarion asked while beaming from ear to ear.

Only then did Eliza snap back to reality.

They were already at the entrance of the police station.

She stood straight and harrumphed awkwardly, "Shall we go home now?"

"Okay."

The butler said respectfully, "Sir, everything is resolved now."

"Judging from the fact that Esme is your stepsister, Mr. Valentine has forgiven her for what she did to you. However, she still has to give a public apology."

Eliza nodded. She knew that this was the best way to resolve the matter.

After all, Beau couldn't reveal that he had two children. Furthermore, Esme had a reputation to keep as well.

However, she still had to record a public apology due to her crime of swindling money from underage children.

That was enough to teach Esme a lesson.

Taking a deep breath, she held Demarion's hand as she led him to the car. She said happily, "What shall we eat tonight? I'll cook for you!"

Beau didn't move an inch as he stared at Eliza, who looked really adorable. He smiled and asked, "Are you hurt anywhere today?"

"No, I'm not."

At the mention of work, Eliza felt slightly depressed. "The higher-ups in Parson Media prohibited me to work as a stuntwoman. I don't know what's with them."

"I was standing under the hot sun working as a stand-in for the entire day. The money I earned today is not even half of a stuntwoman."

Filled with indignation, she clenched her fists and said, "I must find out which one of them is making things difficult for me on purpose."

Beau was just speechless. He couldn't tell her that he was the one behind it.

Inside the police station.

With the help of the police, Esme finished recording her public apology.

"Eliza, that b*tch!"

Coming out of the police station, Presley complained while walking, "If I knew that Mr. Valentine was such a young and handsome man. I wouldn't have forced Eliza to get married "We just lost a ten-karat diamond ring! Just thinking about it infuriates me!" "That should've belonged to you, Esme!" "It's okay, mom."

Esme narrowed her eyes and looked ahead. "I can just snatch everything away from Eliza. It's no big deal."

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The Valentine family's villa.

Eliza hummed joyfully as she prepared dinner in the kitchen.

Demarion moved over a small stool and sat in the center of the kitchen. He rested his chin on both hands and tilted his head to look at Eliza. "Mommy."

Eliza, who was busy cutting the vegetables, paused and looked at him. "What's wrong?"

"If only you were my biological mommy."

He stared into her eyes seriously and said, "You know, our eyes look the same. What if you actually turn out to be my biological mother?"

Eliza smiled helplessly as she turned around to continue doing her task at hand. "I've never given birth to children..."

She stopped abruptly.

She did have a miscarriage five years before.

Did that count as having experience in giving birth? Eliza's heart ached when she thought about her past. She changed the topic instantly, "Have you never seen your biological mother before?" "No, I've never seen her before." Demarion shook his head while saying, "I heard that my mother died while giving birth to us." "Despite what they told us, I still believe that my mother is still alive somewhere in this world! She's still waiting for us to find her!"

Listening to Demarion's goal, Eliza's heart went out to him.

She cut off a small piece of ham and stuffed it into Demarion's mouth. Then, she squatted down and hugged him. "Hold on to that dream. You'll definitely meet her one day."

"Once you grow up into an adult, you can go and find her!" Demarion could feel the warmth of her body. While eating the piece of ham, he thought dejectedly. "If only Eliza is my real mother..."

A small part of Demarion still yearned to meet his own mother.

In the study upstairs.

Braint sat in the office with his arms crossed. Opposite him was Beau. He was a spitting image of his father.

"Why did you forgive that woman?"

Eliza was almost ravished because of Esme's evil schemes.

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"How can he let that evil woman go, after the things that she had done to mommy?" Braint thought.

Beau looked at him indifferently. "Of course I didn't forgive her."

Esme was still advancing her career. In the future, Beau would have plenty of opportunities to make her suffer in the business field. For now, he could only do so much to teach her a lesson. If Beau made the incident into a big issue, he wouldn't be able to satiate the public's curiosity.

Demarion and Braint were at risk of exposing their identities, which could jeopardize their peaceful lives at the moment.

Though Beau had full confidence that he could silence the media with his power, he still wouldn't want to risk his children's safety. It was a promise he had to uphold to someone special. "What do you mean by that?" Seeing that Beau wasn't uttering a word, Braint bit his lip and asked with frustration. Compared to Demarion, Braint was a lot more mature and collected. Demarion, on the other hand, was more like a typical child who could explore his emotions without a care of the consequences.

Beau looked at him and smiled, "You really do care for Eliza, huh?"

Braint blushed and turned his face away. "She's part of our family after all."

Beau crossed his arms around his chest and sized him up. "Is that the only reason why you're acting like this?"

"Yes."

Braint jumped off the desk and said, "Since you refuse to help me, I will deal with that evil woman myself."

After that, he strode out of the study.

"Wait a minute."

Beau, who was sitting on the chair, pointed to the box on the table and said, "Take that box to Eliza and tell her that it's a gift from you."

Braint picked up the small box and glanced at it. "Are these some kind of branded cosmetics?"

He looked at Beau sternly. "Daddy isn't the type who likes to send gifts, unless... he did something wrong to mommy," Braint thought with suspicion.

Beau felt uneasy after experiencing his son's death stare.

He coughed awkwardly and said, "I asked your cousin to look out for Eliza today."

"Oh, that idiot messed up again."

Sighing, Braint held on to the box and walked out. "I'll forgive you for now."

Looking at his son's back, Beau chuckled as he shook his head helplessly.

"Hello, uncle!"

The moment Braint left, Beau's phone rang. "Is Eliza home?" Matthew's voice echoed from the receiver.

"I bet she told you about her resignation as a stuntwoman, right?"

"Is she happy?"

Beau narrowed his eyes sinisterly and replied, "Yes, she is over the moon."

"I told you, you can always count on me!" "I did a good job, right?"

"Yes. Since you're so diligent in carrying out my orders, I'm sure you'll be more than happy to work for me

without pay for the next few months." D

Judging from Beau's tone, Matthew knew that he had done something wrong.

After a while, Matthew calmed down his nerves and replied, "Uncle, don't you worry, I'll find a better way to make Eliza happy!"

"That sounds more like it."

Beau said in an indifferent tone, "Your salary next month depends on the decisions you make. So, make sure you think properly before doing anything."

Upon hearing that, Matthew broke out in a cold sweat. He came to a realization that transferring Eliza to another job post was a stupid move.

After dinner, Eliza returned to her room with Braint's gift.

She had heard about that brand of cosmetics before. It was a luxury brand which she could never afford. She didn't expect Braint to give her something so expensive, and it was just right after she complained about having to bask under the hot sun for the entire day. He was incredibly thoughtful of her.

Eliza sat in front of her dressing table and took a few pictures with the cosmetic products. Then, she opened the bottle carefully and applied it to her face. She bragged to Graciana on the phone, "Look at what my son gave me! It really does miracles to my skin!" Beau leaned against the door. He could not help but smile when he noticed how pleased she was.

How could such a small gift make her so happy?

She was giddy enough to show off to her friends.

"I'm so jealous of you! I also want to have two handsome and thoughtful children!"

Graciana replied enviously, "Actually, I am very curious about your husband's real looks."

"I heard that he looks horrendous. It just doesn't make sense for him to have beautiful children."

Eliza pursed her lips. "My husband is not ugly..." Beau smiled when he heard the way Eliza addressed him.

For some reason, he felt elated when she called him 'her husband'. It brought him back to that day, where she was soaked wet in the bathtub, looking all provocative and seductive.

"When are you going to show me your husband's face then?"

"I don't want to. I figure that he wants to maintain a low profile since nobody really knows his real looks. I want to respect his privacy."

"Stop lying! I know he doesn't have great looks!"

"I'm not lying! You're just jealous!"

Just when the ladies were busy bickering with one another, the butler, Alfredo John, called out to Beau.

"Sir!"

Alfredo came upstairs to serve the children some warm milk. While ascending the stairs, he saw Beau leaning against the door.

Graciana and Eliza stopped bickering the moment they heard Alfredo.

Quickly, she turned to look outside.

It seemed like Beau had been standing there for quite a while now. "Eliza, I'm sure your husband looks like a monster! Or else, you won't be that reluctant to show me his face!"

Graciana's cheeky voice echoed through the receiver. Petrified, Eliza turned and switched off her phone. "...I'm just fooling around with my friend..." Eliza stuttered.

"Are you guys joking about me?" Beau closed the door and approached her with an emotionless expression. Feeling his intimidating aura, Eliza backed off instinctively. She accidentally tripped over the edge of the bed and fell on the bed.

Beau towered over her by pressing her arms to the side.

He grabbed the phone swiftly and pressed the 'video call' button.

Soon, Graciana's stunned face appeared on the phone. Beau turned off the volume and looked down at her. "Eliza." "Am I really that ugly to you?" She could feel his breath near her cheeks at such a close distance.

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Eliza couldn't think straight when Beau was around. He gave off such a domineering presence.

Right now, his face was just centimeters away from hers. Gosh, how could someone be that handsome!

Beau raised her chin and flirted, "It's true that I always maintain a low profile, but I'll make an exception for you." 2

Coming from him, those words sounded magnetic and enchanting.

Eliza was intoxicated by his mere existence.

Her mind went blank. She wanted to say something, but her words were stuck at the back of her throat.

He rubbed his fingers against her soft lips and said, "Tell me if you come across people who dare to tarnish my name. I will make sure they suffer a painful death."

Satisfied, he swept his gaze at her flushed complexion as he turned to leave.

Eliza was petrified as she remained frozen like a statue on the bed. Images of Beau's gaze and his body pressing on her flooded her mind. After feasting on her brief memories, she came back to her senses. On her phone, the video call with Graciana was still ongoing.

Only then did she realize that Beau had put her phone on silent mode.

Blushing profusely, Eliza turned on the volume.

Graciana reacted dramatically when she saw Eliza's face on the phone. "Damn, Eliza, was that Mr. Valentine just now?" "He's such a handsome man! He's nothing like the rumors at all!" "Oh my god, my heart is beating so fast right now. Eliza, I'm so envious of you! I want to have what you have right now!" Graciana squealed in delight.

"Both of you make a perfect pair! You're so lucky! Mr. Valentine is 10 times more handsome than Jay!"

Eliza's mood lifted after being showered in a whirlpool of compliments.

Something struck Graciana's mind as she slapped her temples, "Eliza, I just thought about something."

"I just realized that you didn't resist him just now."

Eliza paused.

What happened five years ago had scarred her from forming healthy relationships with men. For the past five years, never once did she grow intimate with Jay.

Now that she thought about it, she was never really disgusted by Beau's touch.

"Has *Mr. Valentine* cured your illness?"

Graciana's voice reflected a hint of incredulity, "Don't tell me, you've fallen in love with *Mr. Valentine*?"

Eliza shook her head as she gave a curt reply, "Impossible."

"How is it not possible?"

"Are you sure you're not attracted to his looks and demeanor? I mean, he looks like a snack to me!" 3

Eliza paused and pondered,

"Is this love at first sight?"

"That's... that's just impossible."

She was confused about her own emotions.

The next morning, Beau was still asleep when Eliza woke up.

She held her chin with one hand and gawked at Beau's sleeping face.

He had the perfect looks.

Graciana's words echoed in her mind, which left her thinking about that same question,

"Did I fall in love with him at first sight?"

“Just how long do you plan on staring at my face?”

Beau’s voice broke her reverie as Eliza came back to her senses.

He was looking straight into her eyes. Curious about what was on her mind, he asked,

“Am I really that good-looking? I can literally see you drooling while looking at me.”

A surge of red rushed up to her cheeks as she climbed down the bed and rushed downstairs.

Looking at her back, Beau smiled.

For some reason, he loved teasing her and seeing the funny reactions she made.

After breakfast, Eliza went to Parson Media.

As soon as she entered the door, a man in a suit approached her and said, “Hello, I am Roseane Comtois’s assistant. My name is Gilbert Peck.”

He extended his hand and grinned, “I heard that you are the best stuntwoman in Parson Media. Roseane asked me to invite you to be her personal stuntwoman.”

Eliza couldn’t believe her ears. She pinched herself and asked, “Are you sure you got the right person?”

Eliza felt like she was dreaming.

Roseane was her favorite actress.

Eliza, being a mere stuntwoman, wouldn’t even think about collaborating with a famous celebrity like Roseane Comtois.

Did she hear it correctly? Did Roseane just propose a work offer to her?

“Yes, I’m very sure.”

Gilbert smiled and led her to the filming site. “You’re the only stuntwoman in Parson Media. Roseane has viewed your performance before, and she thinks that you are great at what you do.”

He opened the door of the resting lounge and said, “Let’s head in.”

Eliza was still in a daze as she trailed from behind.

It was not a dream.

Given that she had no idea how to react, Eliza stood at the door uneasily. Clad in a Victorian-era themed dress, Roseane was currently fixing her makeup. When she noticed Eliza, she invited her over and said in a gentle tone, "Has Gilbert told you about my offer?"

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Scanned with CamScanner

18:32 "You shouldn't stand in the hot sun as a stand-in anymore. It's just not worth it. You can consider working as my personal stuntwoman. I will triple the amount you normally earn." I

The news was a huge blow to Eliza. "Ms. Comtois, why did you choose me specifically as your stuntwoman? I don't think we know each other that well either."

Roseane smiled. "Someone recommended you to me. He thinks you're outstanding at your job."

Early in the morning, Matthew went on his knees and groveled, just so Roseane would hire Eliza. She had no choice.

"Do I know your friend?"

Eliza frowned. She didn't know that she had friends who knew the famous Roseane.

She let out a grin and replied, "I'm sure you'll get to know him in the future."

Right at this moment, someone knocked and opened the door, "Miss Comtois, the director asked you to stand by."

"Alright."

Roseane stood up. "Eliza, are you interested in watching me acting in person?"

Eliza nodded enthusiastically and trailed from behind.

When she arrived at the set, she was shocked to find Jay as the male lead of the film.

Madeleine was there as well.

She was here to visit Jay.

Right now, the lovey-dovey couple was enjoying their meal at the condiments section.

Jay was stunned when he saw Eliza standing behind Roseane. "Jay, what are you looking at?" Madeleine followed his gaze and saw Eliza.

At first, she was surprised to see Eliza. Soon after, her attitude took a dramatic turn into sarcasm.

She raised her voice and sneered. "I see, someone just got herself a raise."

Eliza knew that they were talking about her.

Feigning ignorance, she listened to Gilbert's instructions and hustled along the way.

When the filming started, Eliza sat on a small chair in the distance and watched quietly.

"Eliza, I thought you meant what you said."

While she was focusing on Roseane's performance, Madeleine's sarcastic tone echoed from behind, "You vengeful b*tch. You knew that Jay is the male lead in this drama, that's why you're here as Roseane's personal stuntwoman."

Madeleine crossed her arms around her chest and walked in front of her with a smug expression, "Until when do you plan on clinging onto him?"

"Let me give you a reality check. Jay has never loved you, and he never will."

Eliza smiled. "I see. I guess I'll have to thank him for that."

"I'll throw up if he ever develops feelings for me."

She turned and glanced at Madeleine. "I've known you for eight years. I've always thought that you have good taste in men."

"Turns out I'm wrong. I can't believe that you'd actually fall for trash." Madeleine frowned and her face dropped. "Are you serious?" "Oh no," Eliza yawned. "You've got me wrong." "Both of you are trash. I suppose like attracts like." After that, she crossed her arms and turned to leave. "Eliza, you won't be acting smug for long." Madeleine stared at her back and gritted her teeth. "You will never have the chance to hold Jay's hand again in this lifetime! But I can!" Just at this moment, Roseane had already finished filming her part. Gilbert walked over with a frown and stuffed one of the scripts to Eliza. "The director wants Roseane to film more scenes today, so she's heading to another set right now. You should get ready. You'll be doing a scene with Jay Carr later."

"The plot is simple. You just have to stand still. Jay will walk towards you slowly and he'll hold your hand in the end. That's it."

Eliza found it hilarious. She looked at Madeleine. "What exactly did you say just now?"⁰

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Chapter 25

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Chapter 25

Madeleine looked like she was about to murder Eliza at the moment.

Eliza smiled. “We are just working. I’m sure you won’t be jealous over something like this, right?” Right at this moment, Jay walked over.

Madeleine threw herself into his arms and said coquettishly, “Baby dear, Eliza is making me angry on purpose.”

“She keeps provoking me. Eliza wants me to feel jealous because you’ll be doing an intimate scene with her later.”

“We have been together for so many years. Why should I be jealous of her?” Jay frowned and looked at Eliza with displeasure, “Eliza, I understand that we’re not exactly buddies right now, but please understand that we are working at the moment.” “Please at least show professionalism at work.” “Sure, I don’t have any problems with that.”

Eliza stretched her arms lazily and said, “You keep going on about professionalism, but isn’t it unprofessional of you to have your girlfriend bossing me around during working hours?”

Eliza’s voice was quite loud, which attracted the staff’s attention.

Some of them started gossiping.

“I’m sure there’s a lot of celebrities who have girlfriends. I understand that she’s here to provide emotional support to Jay, but she doesn’t have to come every single day.”

“I think she’s trying to boost her own popularity. Don’t you know that Madeleine used to be an online influencer? The only thing special about her is her looks. She’s not even talented in acting or singing. If it isn’t because of Jay, I’m sure nobody would want to hire her. That’s why she’s coming here every day to get more exposure.”

“Ew, that’s just disgusting.”

The staff was leaving nasty remarks on Madeleine’s attitude in their workplace.

Madeleine was beyond frustrated.

Finally, she freed herself from Jay’s embrace and said coldly, “I’m leaving.”

Jay caught up to her. He held on to *Madeleine's* hand, coaxing and begging her to stay.

Sitting on the chair, Eliza flipped through the script while peeking at Jay and *Madeleine* in a distance. Jealousy engulfed her whole. She was in a relationship with Jay for six years, and yet he had never treated her like how he treated *Madeleine*.

Ten minutes later, the filming started. With her back facing the camera, Eliza stood rooted to the ground as she watched Jay walking towards her

gradually.

In this urban romance-themed drama, Jay was given the role of a ruthless and wealthy businessman.

Clad in a white suit, he walked towards Eliza with firm steps. All the other actresses surrounding them gaped with amazement.

"He's so handsome..."

"As expected of someone who'll be honored the Golden Bull Award this year!"

"I wish I have a boyfriend who's as handsome as him!"

Listening to the compliments, Eliza frowned while staring at Jay's face in silence.

She felt irked.

Eliza didn't know what got into her back then. How could she waste 6 years of her youth on trash like him?

His looks could never be compared to Beau. Not even half of it!

"Eliza."

Since they didn't have any lines in this scene, Jay said with a low voice while holding on to her hand, "You did it on purpose, didn't you?"

"You did it on purpose so that everyone would talk crap about *Madeleine*."

Eliza narrowed her eyes slightly and sneered, "Yes, it was on purpose."

However, she wouldn't be disrespectful to *Madeleine* if Jay didn't give her a lecture about professionalism just now.

After all, Eliza just wasn't interested in meddling with their business.

"I hope there won't be a next time."

"Unlike you, Madeleine is a sensitive woman who doesn't like people gossiping about her."

Upon hearing that, her heart sank.

"Madeleine? A sensitive woman?" "Am I really just shameless to him?" Eliza thought.

Jay's words were like daggers stabbing into her heart. "If something like this happens again, don't blame me for being rude to you."

Before Eliza could react, the director shouted, "It's a wrap!"

"We won't be doing more scenes today! Go home and rest well! We'll continue tomorrow."

Jay let go of Eliza's hand and said in a cold tone, "Remember what I said." Standing rooted to the ground, Eliza gritted her teeth as she watched Jay leave. She was grappled by sadness and disappointment, both at the same time.

Deep down, she knew that Jay really cared for *Madeleine*. It was the way he looked at her that shattered Eliza's heart.

Jay would do anything for the woman he loved, even if that meant betraying Eliza.

She found it hard to reconcile with the realization that Jay had never showered her with love and care, not as he did with *Madeleine* anyway. It was then she realized that she was a sour loser in this triangle of a relationship.

After the whole day of work, Eliza returned home in low spirits.

"Mommy, are you sad?"

After dinner, Demarion supported his chin with both hands as he asked sternly, "You only laughed five times today, and I could tell that you're forcing it."

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"Is something on your mind?"

Looking into the child's sparkling eyes, Eliza shook her head helplessly. "I'm fine."

"That's not true."

Demarion pouted. While cracking jokes to make Eliza laugh, he pulled out his phone and sent a text message to Braint.

"Braint, something big has happened! Mommy's in a bad mood today!"

Braint, who was reading upstairs, glanced at the message and went straight to the study room.

In the study, Beau lowered his head while reading some documents. Hearing the voice at the door. Beau looked up and asked, "What's the matter?"

"I have something to tell you."

Braint walked over and climbed onto the chair with his short legs. Then, he climbed onto the desk and sat down in front of Beau. They stared at each other. "Your wife isn't happy today,

Beau frowned. He picked up the phone and dialed a number. "Come to my study."

Soon after, a security officer with a burly build walked inside cautiously and placed a notebook on the desk. "The details of Eliza's schedule for today are written in there."

Ever since the abduction. Beau had arranged for someone to keep a close eye on Eliza for her safety.

Braint frowned and picked up the notebook. "I see. Mommy's ex-boyfriend and ex-best friend were stirring trouble for her."

"That's why she's not happy."

Beau frowned.

He thought that Eliza had moved on from her past relationship. That day, he even saw Eliza's attitude while dealing with Jay and Madeleine with his own eyes.

"What exactly is troubling her?" Beau thought. Was Jay that great of a boyfriend to her? So much so that she was still reluctant in cutting a clean break with him?

Irritated, Beau tugged at his collar and continued working.

Braint snatched the document away and said, "Mr. Beau Valentine."

"As a husband, you should do your best to make your wife happy."

"Stop working."

"Even though you have a lot of money, but you only have one wife.' D

It was indeed rare to see Braint convincing his father to do something for him.

Beau looked at his serious expression and smiled. "You've been talking a lot ever since Eliza got into our family."

Braint was shocked. He replied while blushing. "Really? I didn't realize that."
"Yes."

Beau took the document back into his hands and put it back on the table. "You really do like her, huh?"

"Uh huh..."

Braint pursed his lips and lowered his head. "I don't know why."

"I just feel that compared to the others, she feels more like a mother to me."

Beau sighed and carried Braint in his arms as they left the study. "I'll go check on her right now."

"Okay."

It was the first time for Beau to carry Braint in his arms. Braint was so embarrassed that even his ears had turned red. "Thank you for treating her well."

Beau smiled helplessly. "Well, I can't help it, right? Since you like her, I have to like her as well."

"She's my wife. It's only natural for me to love and care for her." After sending Braint back to his room, Beau returned to his bedroom. In the bedroom, Eliza was listening to the news broadcast while applying a mask on her face with her eyes closed. When Beau entered the room, the news had just shifted to the entertainment section. "Mr. Carr. Can you please give us more details about your relationship with Madeleine?"

"Rumors have it that Madeleine is only interested in my soaring popularity. That's not true. The truth is, we have been together for almost 5 years. When we just started our relationship as a couple, I wasn't as successful as I am now..." "Click."

Halfway through Jay's interview, someone turned off the broadcast.

Eliza opened her eyes.

In front of her was Beau, a man who was 100 times more handsome than Jay.

Beau frowned while staring at her, "They've been showing off their relationship to you at work. Still, you're listening to news related to them at night?"

"Eliza, do you have a habit of torturing yourself?"

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My Three Darlings by Anonymous

Chapter 26

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Chapter 26

"Do I like torturing myself?" Eliza pursed her lips. "No, I don't." While listening to the news, she was just trying to relax.

Jay and Madeleine were the most popular candidates nominated for the Golden Bull Award this year, so it was only normal for the radio broadcast to be flooded with news about them.

Although she didn't really like listening to it, it didn't affect her much because they had already severed their relationship a long time ago. Right now, she was only treating it as background noise.

Beau frowned. "You should be moving on."

Eliza paused. "Moving on from what..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Beau was already walking towards her at a quick pace. He pulled Eliza's wrist and went downstairs.

"What are you doing?" Shocked, Eliza thrashed her arm to break free from his grasp. "Where are you taking me?" She was still wearing her bunny pajamas and her mask was still plastered on her face! Without a word, Beau pushed her into the car. The car engine screeched to life. Eliza sat in the passenger seat and looked at her own reflection on the car window. How could she leave the house like this? She was very frustrated.

She removed the mask from her face. Only then did she realize that the car was not equipped with trash cans. Feeling speechless, she crumpled the dried mask in her palms. "Just what on earth are you doing?"

Beau didn't say anything further as he stepped on the accelerator.

The car stopped at the entrance of a five-star hotel in Krine.

"Get out of the car,"

Beau said coldly while holding on to the steering wheel.

Eliza was both confused and irritated at the same time.

It was already late at night. The reason she dragged her out without any explanation... Was it because he wanted to have sex with her at a luxurious hotel?!

Out of instinct, Eliza covered her chest with both hands and said, "Mr. Valentine, you can't treat me like this."

Beau glanced at her in disdain, "You sleep in my bed every day. If I want to touch you inappropriately in any way. I would've done so ages ago."

Eliza thought about it for a moment. That actually made sense. If it wasn't because of sex, then why did he bring her here in the middle of the night? "Get out of the car."

Beau gave an order.

Eliza pursed her lips and did as told. She didn't really have a choice anyway.

As soon as she got off the car, Beau grabbed her arm and rushed upstairs.

They arrived at a suite.

After he entered the suite, Beau sat down elegantly on the sofa. He reached for the remote control and switched on the LCD screen on the walls.

The LCD screen displayed what seemed like footage from a surveillance camera.

It showed both Jay and Madeleine sitting on the sofa with their heads hung low while being lectured by a

man.

Judging from the design of their room, they should also be in one of the rooms of this hotel.

Eliza stood rooted to the ground while looking at Jay and Madeleine on the screen. "What in the world..."

"They are right next door."

Beau rubbed his temples frustratedly as he said. "Since you can't move on from your past relationship, I'm giving you a chance to vent your anger at Jay Carr."

"Go in there and do whatever you want to him. Beat him, shout at him, whatever that will make you feel better."

Eliza was stunned.

Was this the reason he brought her out so late at night? Eliza pursed her lips and waved her hand. "I'm fine. In fact, I don't really want to do that."

"Are you sure?"

Beau narrowed his eyes slightly. "Do you want to get back together with him?"

The surrounding air was drowned in an oppressive aura.

There was menace in his eyes as he said with a cold tone, "You should give up that thought."

Eliza was speechless.

Just what did she do that caused Beau to arrive at this conclusion?

Ever since Jay broke the news about his affair, which already happened five years back, Eliza couldn't even stand the sight of him. Eliza grimaced and said, "Don't worry. Even if Jay crawls to his knees and begs me to be with him again, I will just kick him in the balls." Beau glanced at her.

Satisfied with her answer, he smiled. "That's more like it."

Eliza didn't expect him to go to such lengths to help her move on from her ex.

She yawned and sat down at the edge of the sofa.

"I'm so sleepy," Eliza thought.

"Mr. Valentine, you dragged me out this late at night just for this?"

Beau frowned, "Braint told me that there seems to be something on your mind."

"That's why you brought me here? To teach Jay a lesson?" Beau paused. "Braint told me to make you feel better." Eliza didn't know what to say.

Seriously? Did he really think that this would work?

Did he really think that violence would solve the issue? She stared at Beau in awe and incredulity.

It was just ridiculous.

Eliza sighed and said in a joking manner, "Mr. Valentine, there's something I'm very curious about."

"Tell me, just how did your ex-wife fall for someone like you?"

Beau's face dropped at the mention of Demarion and Braint's mother.

After a while, he made sure he was loud and clear, "It's not what you think it is."

Eliza was stunned.

Soon after, something struck her mind and she understood what he meant now.

For someone as handsome as Beau, he didn't need to put in any effort at all. If anything, women would flock to him just to get his attention.

If it wasn't because of the nasty rumors, Beau would definitely have a voluntary harem of his own. If that happened, Eliza wouldn't even stand a chance..

"We were never in a healthy relationship."

"Besides, I owe her a lot."

It was the first time for Beau to ever mention his children's mother.

According to the butler, they were never officially married.

Treading on thin ice, Eliza assumed cautiously, "She's..."

"She's dead."

He turned his face away after that.

Eliza jolted in surprise.

"I'm sorry..." She bit her lip. Although it didn't seem appropriate for her to pry any further, she still couldn't suppress her curiosity. "Can I know how did she pass away?" "In a fire."

Beau closed his eyes and heaved in a deep breath, "Ever since her passing. I've vowed to never marry again."

"But..."

Beau had never thought that there would be someone in this world who was courageous enough to ignore all the scary rumors and show up at his doorstep. Not only that, the children had even given the green light for her to be a part of his family.

He wasn't prepared for Eliza to be his wife at all.

For the sake of his two children, he would make the necessary sacrifices.

"The children like you a lot."

If it wasn't for Eliza, he wouldn't have discovered his children's budding personalities. Ever since she became their stepmother, Braint started opening up and Demarion was a lot easier to deal with. Eliza laughed. "I also think that I'm fated to meet the children." Five years ago, she suffered from a miscarriage due to an accident. However, God had gifted her two adorable children despite the hardships she went through. Eliza swore to try her best in showering the kids with love and care. "I think so too." Beau nodded in agreement.

Eliza didn't know what to say all of a sudden.

Silence drowned the room.

The room was so quiet that they could hear each other's breathing clearly. "Jay, be gentle with me..." "Stop acting rough..." All of a sudden, a woman's flirtatious voice echoed from the room beside. Eliza looked up immediately. On the surveillance screen, that man, who was supposed to teach them a lesson, had disappeared out of thin air.

Now, Jay and Madeleine were having sex on the sofa next door.

Eliza's expression was flushed red the moment she heard Madeleine moaning with pleasure. Quickly, she turned to look at Beau's face. Before she could meet his eyes, Beau had already stood up. He switched off the display and tugged at Eliza's collar from her back as they left the room.

They entered the elevator in a strange position.

It was rather uncomfortable for her, so she struggled to break free. While she was thrashing around her limbs, she accidentally touched his body. "Don't move."

Beau's low and hoarse voice echoed from beside, "If you don't want me to make a move on you, you should

stop wriggling around." Eliza paused, and only then did she understand what he meant. Her face turned scarlet red almost instantly. Biting down at her lips, she shouted with a flushed expression. "You...you animal!" Beau squinted, leaned down, and nibbled her earlobe. "I'll unleash the beast inside me if you keep moving around."

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Chapter 27

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Chapter 27

The air in the lift was suffocating.

Finally, the door opened with a click. Eliza sprinted out frantically.

“Achoo!”

She sneezed loudly the moment she reached outside. Before she knew it, it was already late at night. Standing in the cool breeze, she was shivering from head to toe.

She looked ridiculous standing in front of the entrance while cladding in cartoon-printed rabbit pajamas, which attracted a lot of attention from the pedestrians. In hopes that she could hide her outfit from view, Eliza hugged herself and forced herself to walk towards the parking lot.

After a few steps, someone grabbed her hoodie cap from behind.

Before she could turn around, everything went black.

Beau had thrown a jacket on top of her head and said, “Wear this.”

Shoving the jacket away, she looked at his tall and wide back. “I don’t need it. I’m fine.”

Beau did not stop walking ahead. “If you got sick, the children will scold me.”

Eliza pursed her lips and put on his clothes obediently.

The moment she put on the jacket, the scent of peppermint watted into her nose, which overwhelmed her olfactory senses.

For some reason, her cheeks felt slightly hot.

Since there was no traffic, Beau sped off into the night by his car.

On the way back, she would occasionally peek at the rearview mirror from the back seat.

The way he was focusing on the road looked so sexy and alluring. She could see the defined lines of his facial feature.

Eliza’s heart skipped a beat when she realized just how attractive he looked.

One thing was for certain.

Beau was 100 times more handsome than Jay.

Soon, they arrived at the villa.

He parked the car at the door and said casually, "I'm going back to the company to have a meeting. You should head back first."

Eliza unfastened her seatbelt and frowned. "You're working this late at night?"

"There's a time zone difference in other countries."

"You're such a hard worker..." Beau said with a magnetic tone, "Well if I don't, I'm sure others will have to wait for me till late at night. I'm sure they are all people with families, they want to go home early too." A surge of emotions flowed through Eliza and her heart went out to him.

She didn't expect a person of Beau's status to be so considerate of others.

After getting out of the car, she gave Beau a concerned look and said, "Make sure to come home early after your meeting."

Beau paused, probably not expecting Eliza to care about him.

He took some time to digest it and shifted his gaze to Eliza, "Alright, I'll be back as soon as I can."

The car engine rewed to life again.

"Also..."

Before he sped off into the night, Eliza heaved in a deep breath and said, "Thank you for tonight."

Although the way he dealt with the problem was quite weird, it was still an unforgettable experience.

Beau stepped on the accelerator and before she knew it, he was already miles away from her.

Eliza looked at his car in the distance and sighed.

She wasn't sure if he heard what she said.

A cold breeze blew at her and she crumpled up into a little ball again. The corners of her lips turned up when she touched his jacket draped around her shoulders.

"He's such a gentleman," she thought.

The next morning, Beau was sleeping next to her the moment she opened her eyes.

The morning sunlight filtered through the windows and illuminated his lined face. When he was asleep, he didn't seem that intimidating. If anything, he looked gentle.

Judging from his deep eyebags, he had probably just fallen asleep. Eliza got out of bed carefully and tucked him in. Then, she went to the house maid's room to wash up. During breakfast, Eliza prepared a portion for Beau and instructed the housemaids to serve him when he woke up.

"It seems like mommy cares for daddy after all!"

Sitting at the dining table, Demarion bit his small spoon and stared at Eliza's face with a beam. "Mommy, when will you give me a little sister?"

Upon hearing that question, Eliza's face turned red. She didn't know how to answer that question. She didn't have the heart to reject him flat-out either. So, she changed the topic and said, "Why do you want a little sister? Why not another brother?"

Demarion rolled his eyes. "I pray to the gods that I will not get another brother."
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"If you give birth to a brother like me, I will be annoyed to death!" Braint glanced at him. "It's good that you know." Eliza was amused by the two brothers' conversation. After breakfast, the driver sent Eliza to Parson Media. As soon as she entered the set, she saw Madeleine sitting proudly in the set with her legs crossed, holding

a script in her hand.

An actor standing from beside had a resentful look on his face as he complained, "How can anyone be that shameless? It only took her a day to snatch away the female supporting role from the previous actress. And that's after we bashed her about being unprofessional yesterday!"

"Looks like Jay is truly in love with her. He spent the entire night convincing the producer to promote Madeleine to the post..."

While flipping through today's schedule, Eliza listened to the talk of the day, which was stories about Madeleine's promotion. Listening to the gossips, something struck her mind.

She realized that the man, who was with Madeleine and Jay yesterday, was the producer of the drama series named "Snowy Night".

Jay was on his knees yesterday, begging the producer to hire Madeleine as the female supporting role.

When Eliza was dating Jay in the past, she was the one who tried her best to help him with everything he needed.

To the public, Eliza was Jay's ex-girlfriend and also an insignificant stuntwoman in Parson Media. Truth be told, she was actually both his manager and assistant, who had done everything to help him advance his career.

But now, Jay was willing to risk everything for *Madeleine's* sake.

When she broke free from her thoughts, she had also finished reading the schedule.

Most of the scenes today involved only Jay and *Madeleine*. Since *Roseane* wasn't scheduled to be on set today, she had no use here.

After greeting the deputy director, she left the set.

She greeted another actor along the way and asked, "Do you know where is *Roseane* right now?"

"I'm currently searching for the set that she's scheduled in at the moment."

Eliza smiled. "I think I'll head over there to have a look. Maybe there'll be something I can help them with."

"How hardworking."

Just when she finished speaking, a voice echoed from behind. It was *Madeleine*. Eliza couldn't be bothered with her. She was prepared to leave the moment she saw her smug expression.

"Don't ever think that you'll have it easy just because *Roseane* has your back"

Madeleine crossed her arms around her chest and looked at Eliza's back arrogantly. "You'll forever be working as a stuntwoman. Don't even dream about being a celebrity."

Eliza smiled. She turned to look back. "Well, it's an undeniable fact that you're a homewrecker. Don't even dream about clearing your name."

After that, she walked away. *Madeleine* glared at her with hatred brewing inside. "What does she mean by that? *Madeleine*? A homewrecker?"

"That's what Eliza meant right? I thought Jay was single before dating *Madeleine*."

"Could it be that Jay was dating someone else before this, and *Madeleine*..."

A few of the actresses gathered around and gossiped. *Madeleine* turned around and glared at them. "Nonsense! I'll kill you all if I ever hear you talking behind my back again. Some of them stuck out their tongues and said, "If you want to blame

someone for this, go and vent your anger at Eliza instead. She's the one who started the rumor anyway."

Madeleine narrowed her eyes.

Eliza Lawson.

She would definitely make that b*tch pay.

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Chapter 28

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Chapter 28

When Eliza arrived at the studio, she noticed that the atmosphere inside the studio was terrifyingly

oppressive.

It seemed like the director had lost his temper and was now drinking tea angrily.

Roseane was sitting in the corner with a pale face while still holding on to the script tightly.

"What's going on?"

Eliza approached Gilbert carefully and asked in a low voice.

"This scene is about the female lead's internal monologue,"

Gilbert lowered his voice. "Roseane needs to demonstrate the character's emotional turmoil from anger, eureka, hopelessness, and finally to revelation." "Since Roseane couldn't finish filming this scene yesterday, the director gave her a day off and asked her to get some rest. However, she still couldn't do it today."

Gilbert sighed helplessly, "It's not like this is her first day of work. Roseane has been in the industry for many years, but for her to shift between complex emotions in such a short period of time, it's just too difficult for anyone."

Eliza pursed her lips and walked towards Roseane slowly. Then, she sat down on the chair beside her.

"Is it okay if I have a look at the script?"

Roseane was already irritated to begin with. When she saw Eliza, she was even more annoyed.

In a fit of anger, she threw the script on Eliza and said scornfully, "Take it." She couldn't be bothered about Eliza's real identity anymore.

"You're just a stunt woman, what do you know?"

Eliza pursed her lips and skimmed through the script. After familiarizing herself with the story, she asked Gilbert for a pen and paper.

A lot of people approached Roseane to provide words of comfort, but she kicked them away without mercy.

Finally, the director came over to give her the final ultimatum. She must complete that scene this morning no matter what!

Despite practicing in front of the mirror numerous times, there was still something that was lacking in her performance. She snapped and smashed two mirrors at once.

"Try this."

When Roseane was having a complete meltdown, Eliza stopped writing and smiled. "The script only

describes details about the character's emotional change, but it doesn't really specify why. I combed through the characters' relationship with one another and rooted out the problem. The reason the female lead feels this particular emotion is because she thought of something that is related to the other three characters."

She passed the paper over and said, "Hope this helps."

Gilbert rolled his eyes at her. "Miss Lawson, stop making things worse."

"Roseane is tired enough."

Irritated, she took the paper and gave it a quick glance. All of a sudden, her eyes lit up and her mood changed dramatically.

Why didn't she think about that? Every character in the script was somehow interconnected to one another!

Once again, she composed herself and started practicing in front of the mirror.

This time, she didn't smash the mirrors. Half an hour later, Roseane sat in front of the camera and tried filming the scene again.

The director loved her performance and called it a wrap.

He gave Roseane a thumbs up. "You're impressive as always! I'm amazed by your ability to shift your mental state that easily."

"Thank you."

During lunchtime, Roseane brought Eliza along to a high-end restaurant just opposite Parson Media.

She smiled and looked at Eliza. "I apologize for my attitude towards you just now."

"You're actually very talented in this field. You can link the storyline with character development rather easily. Given your talents, can I know why you are still working as a stunt woman in Parson Media?"

"With your looks and talents, I'm sure you'll have no problem surviving in the entertainment industry."

Eliza beamed while enjoying her lunch, "I don't have any plans to become an actress. I actually enjoy working as a stuntwoman."

Roseane frowned. "As far as I know, a stuntwoman's job is dangerous and people would normally avoid it. If you're not doing it for money, then what's your ultimate goal?"

"I'm sure you'll earn more as an actress."

Eliza grinned sheepishly. "I have a dark history that I don't want other people to know about. If I ever do anything that might expose my secrets to the public, I'm sure I won't even be able to work as a stunt woman."

"That's why I'm satisfied with my job for now." Roseane didn't expect Eliza to have a dark past.

After remaining silent for a long time, Roseane looked up at Eliza and said, "If I ever encounter similar problems in the future, can I..." "You can always come to me for help." Eliza added, "I'm experienced in this field anyway." After all, Eliza did manage to coach someone as useless as *Madeleine* into an outstanding actress. For someone like her who didn't even graduate middle school, she wouldn't have succeeded without Eliza's help.

"Alright then. You can continue working as my personal stuntwoman. I will definitely give you a handsome reward."

Eliza nodded gratefully, "Thank you, boss!" Roseane beamed and sent a message to Matthew, "Can you tell me what happened to Eliza in the past?"

"What did Roseane mean by that?" Matthew thought.

Looking at the message on the phone, Matthew frowned and turned to look at Beau, "Uncle."

Beau did not look up. "Yes?"

"What kind of shady life did your wife lead in the past?" Beau stopped writing and looked up, "Huh?"

"I have to break some news to you."

Matthew got up from the sofa and showed the phone to Beau. "I've asked someone to offer her a full-time job as an actress, but she rejected it. The reason being that she has a dark past she doesn't want anyone to uncover."

Beau closed the file of documents and said, "I don't know. I've only known her for several weeks."

Matthew was speechless. "Uncle, why did you marry her when you don't even know what kind of person she is?" Beau flipped open another file of documents and scanned through it.

Matthew rolled his eyes and asked, "Just why did you marry her?"

"Braint likes her."

"Demarion likes her as well."

Beau looked up at him, "Isn't that enough?" Matthew gaped in surprise.

"That is such a sloppy reason..."

"Uncle, we're talking about your marriage and your happiness here. Your children shouldn't even be involved in this matter. Do you even love Eliza?"

"I will never fall in love with any woman."

.

"I'm only doing it for my children."

While he was speaking, Beau grabbed the pen and changed some of the details in the document. "I'll leave it to you to uncover her dark past."

It dawned on Matthew that he had brought this upon himself.

It seemed like he had just dug his own grave.

"I shouldn't have brought this topic up! What am I? An idiot?" Matthew blamed himself.

In the afternoon, Eliza was still analyzing the script for Roseane.

During a small break, she went to the nearby supermarket to buy some drinks.

When she returned to the set, some of the cast members working with *Madeleine* and Jay were gossiping,

"Jay's girlfriend is such a joke! She can't even perform simple tasks of her role!"

"I can't believe that she's nominated as one of the potential candidates for the Golden Bull Award! How is that even possible?"

"I have no idea how she managed to build her reputation as an actress up until now."

Hearing their words, Eliza couldn't help but laugh.

Madeleine had never received any form of certification in the field of acting before. Her performance in the past all depended on Eliza's meticulous coaching.

She didn't expect *Madeleine* to be so pathetic without her guidance.

"Eliza!"

Just as she was about to leave, someone stopped her. It was Jay.

He walked towards her and pulled her aside. "I heard that you're free today." He stuffed a script into her hands and said, "Go and help *Madeleine*, now." D "Madelaine is not doing too well at the moment." Eliza glanced at the script in her hand and smiled. "Why should I help her?"

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Chapter 29

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Jay said unhappily, "When *Madeleine* started her career in the entertainment circle, you promised to help her if she ever wants to become an actress." "Are you going back on your words only after one year?" Eliza sneered. "If I remember correctly, you had also promised to marry me, that you'd spend the rest of your life with me."

If Jay could break his promise that easily, then why couldn't she do the same to him?

However, Jay interpreted her words to a different meaning.

Jay smiled smugly and looked at Eliza with sympathy, "Eliza, I've made it very clear with you. I will never marry a promiscuous woman who likes f*cking around with other men. Even worse, you gave birth to his child."

"I understand that you still love me, but still, my heart belongs to *Madeleine* now. Let's stay as friends instead."

Eliza froze.

After a long while, she finally understood what he was implying.

That idiot thought that she was still in love with him!

Did Jay really think that Eliza was still begging to get back with him? What a joke!

"Besides, you're already a married woman. Let's get this straight. You're the one who betrayed me first, so you can't use this against me. You shouldn't vent your anger at *Madeleine* by refusing to help her."

No words could explain Eliza's emotions at the moment.

She snorted and shoved the script at Jay. "Take your script and get out!" How stupid could she be? She couldn't believe that she used to be so infatuated with him!

"Eliza!"

Seeing that she was about to leave, Jay gritted his teeth and rushed towards her. "I will pay you!"

"Even though you hate me now, you can still do it for the money, right?"

Money?

Eliza stopped in her tracks and pondered his words.

She took a deep breath, turned around, and smiled. "Speaking of money..." "Five years ago, you promised to pay me back two times the money I earned from my surrogacy."

"Mr. Carr, when are you going to pay me 1 million dollars?" "20 thousand dollars, then I'll think about being *Madeleine's* coach. What do you say?"

"I'll think about helping her if you have 1.2 million right now."

Jay's face dropped.

He gritted his teeth and glared at Eliza, "That is just ridiculous!"

"You don't want to?"

Eliza lifted her hair and grinned, "Well, I guess you'll have to ask someone else for the task."

Jay said unhappily, "When Madeleine started her career in the entertainment circle, you promised to help her if she ever wants to become an actress."

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"You don't want to?"

Eliza lifted her hair and grinned, "Well, I guess you'll have to ask someone else for the task." After that, she walked away proudly.

Jay stood there, staring at her back.

He was at a loss.

In the evening, someone stopped her when she was prepared to leave Parson Media.

The man caught up to her while panting, "The director wants to film another scene. Since Roseane has already left, he wants you to do it instead."

Eliza frowned. Before she could say anything, the man added, "You will be paid extra for working overtime."

"Okay then!"

Eliza regretted her decision the moment she arrived at the set.

This scene involved only Roseane and Jay.

Night fell.

Aside from the director and two of the staff members, Jay stood there, with Madeleine having a drink not far away. "Go and get changed now!"

The director urged.

Eliza sighed.

Although she felt reluctant to work with them, she had no choice but to fulfill her duties as a stuntwoman.

As soon as she took off her shirt, someone entered the locker room.

Instinctively, Eliza covered her chest.

"What's the point of covering yourself? You're not even that sexy." Madeleine crossed her arms around her chest as she swept her gaze around Eliza's bandaged wound. "Oh no! You haven't recovered from your injuries from last time!"

That day, Madeleine replaced the props with real weapons on purpose, which resulted in the accident.

Eliza frowned and turned around with her back facing Madeleine. While changing, she asked, "Why are you here? Don't tell me you're actually guilty and worried about my injury."

"Of course not."

Madeleine crossed her arms around her chest and sneered, "Eliza, you'd better watch your mouth."

"What you said today has already damaged my reputation."

Eliza smiled.

While buttoning her clothes, she snickered, "I can't seem to remember what I said today."

"Oh right, is it about the fact that you're a homewrecker?"

After that, she turned to look at Madeleine's flustered expression. "I'm just telling the truth though."

"I'm warning you, you should keep your mouth shut. I will make your life miserable if you keep tarnishing my name."

Madeleine said sarcastically, "I wonder what will happen to you if Mr. Valentine is aware of your dark past?"

"Will he dislike you, or worse, abandon you for it?"

Eliza froze. When she decided to marry Beau, she thought that he was as described in the rumors, that he was an ugly monster both inside and out.

That was why she wasn't worried about tarnishing his reputation since it was rotten, to begin with.

However, she discovered that Mr. Valentine was nothing like the rumors described. He was a man with extraordinary qualities. Not only was he a young and handsome man, but he was also a responsible father who was still mourning her ex-girlfriend's death.

Compared to him, Eliza was just a dumb and naive woman who gave her everything to someone as trashy as Jay.

If Beau found out about her past...

Eliza gritted her teeth. The consequences were too grave for her to even digest it.

Madeleine smiled smugly when she noticed Eliza's reaction.

"Looks like someone is afraid. Know your place, you b*tch!"

She left proudly after leaving that remark.

In the pitch-black dressing room, Eliza stared into space, drowning in her thoughts.

When the staff knocked on the door to hustle her, only then did she come back to her senses and ran outside.

The scene they were filming was about the male lead having an argument and was currently at loggerheads with the female lead.

Eliza looked at Jay with her back facing the camera. Even though Jay was standing right in front of her, all she could think about was Beau's handsome face. Jay sneered as he raised his hand to grab Eliza's left shoulder.

He landed his grip squarely on Eliza's wound.

A painful sensation struck her shoulder and her complexion turned pale. Eliza lost her balance and fell forward. Like a hero saving a damsel in distress, Jay extended his arms and received her gracefully.

Falling into his arms, Eliza turned pale when she felt his unfamiliar presence.

Disgust engulfed her whole as her stomach churned uncomfortably.

Quickly, she tried to push him away but Jay tightened his grip. He wouldn't let go! No matter how hard she struggled, she couldn't break free!

Until –

“Slap!”

Madeleine stormed over and slapped Eliza as hard as she could. “You sl*t! How dare you seduce my boyfriend?” D

Shocked, Jay loosened his grip almost instantly.

The impact of the slap left her staggering backward and she knocked against the camera equipment from behind.

The pain was so excruciating that she couldn't help but bent down. Covering her head, she couldn't stand up properly for a while.

While her head was buzzing in pain, *Madeleine's* angry voice echoed in the air as Jay tried his best to

comfort her. Finally, one of the staff helped her to the resting lounge backstage. Eliza recovered from the pain after laying on the makeup table for a long while.

When she looked up, her surroundings were pitch black.

She turned on the flashlight and went out, only to find the door locked.

Looking out of the window, everything was silent and dark.

It seemed like she was locked inside the lounge.

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It was so quiet that even the sound of the breeze could be heard.

“Ding dong-”

Eliza's phone rang, indicating low battery.

Worried, she turned off the flashlight and hoped that she could use the dwindling power to call Graciana.

However, as soon as she dialed the number, the phone screen went black.

It ran out of battery.

All of a sudden, the surrounding darkness overwhelmed her and she couldn't catch her breath.

Eliza felt her heart drumming against her chest as anxiety struck her.

The quiet darkness was like a monster baring its fangs and engulfing her whole. She was terrified of the darkness.

Looking at the moonlight outside the window, she called out for help desperately. O

"Is anyone here? Please!"

"Please save me!"

"Is anybody here?"

She knocked on the door as hard as she could, hoping that the noise would attract the passersby's attention.

Even after her throat was sore from shouting and her hand was throbbing in pain from banging on the door, still, nobody came to help her.

In the end, Eliza leaned against the door as she wallowed in despair.

The wound on her shoulder started pulsing in pain again.

When they were on set just now, Eliza could feel Jay's fingers digging into her shoulder, causing the healing wound to rip apart once again.

Now that she had woken up, her fear of darkness was greater than the pain in her shoulder.

However, she could still feel her shoulder throbbing in excruciating pain.

She closed her eyes.

All of a sudden, memories of five years ago flashed before her eyes. That man and her dead baby flooded her mind.

"Your lips are so soft and sweet..."

"Shame on you, b*tch!"

"How shameless can you be! You literally just sold your body to another man!"

"You can't even protect your own baby. You don't deserve to live!"

"How dare you ask me for money when the baby is dead!"

Memories of the past struck at her all at once.

She froze in motion, not daring to breathe. Deep inside, she knew that she didn't deserve to be alive. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she tugged at her hair with her fingers. Only through experiencing pain could she stop thinking about her terrible past. However, it didn't seem to work at all.

She was trapped in the darkness for a long time. "Bang!" Suddenly, someone kicked the door and it was forced open. At that moment, the lights from outside filtered into the dark room. Eliza looked up instantly.

Beau, who was dressed in a green windbreaker, stood at the entrance.

From her point of view, he looked really tall.

The lights in the corridor illuminated his figure.

As he walked toward her slowly, her heart grew fonder of him with every step.

Right at that moment, she came to a realization that he was in fact, the light of her life.

He was the blazing light who could get rid of the darkness of her heart and the nightmares that had been shrouding her with misery.

"Eliza."

He walked to her side and called out her name in a low voice.

She teared up and happiness welled up inside her.

Almost instinctively, she threw herself into his arms. "Mr. Valentine..."

She wrapped her hands around his body tightly. From her trembling body, he could see that she was beyond frightened.

Beau looked down and said, "It's okay. You're okay now."

Upon hearing his comforting words, Eliza's tears streamed down her damp cheeks. Her tears stained his windbreaker and onto his chest. "I'm so happy that you came..!" "I thought I was dying!"

“Don’t worry, you’re okay.”

Beau carried her into his arms and said, “Let’s go home.”

“Okay.”

Still trembling from head to toe, Eliza nodded and grabbed the hems of his clothes.

Beau carried her and strode out of the resting lounge.

Outside the room, the boss of Parson Media, the management, and the representatives of the set stood at two sides of the entrance as they bowed respectfully.

When Beau walked out with Eliza in his arms, everyone lowered their heads and held their breath.

Just as Beau reached the car door, the boss of Parson Media, Tom Ellis, mustered up his courage and approached him, “Mr. Valentine, this is an accident.”

“Such accidents rarely happen in Parson Media...” Beau looked up and said coldly. ‘Is this your way of welcoming your new boss?’ Although he sounded indifferent, his threat was implicit, yet very obvious. Tom shivered with fear upon hearing his words. He shook his head and stuttered nervously, “I will investigate this and find the culprit.” “I’ll give you one day to find out who it is.”

Noah, who was standing at the side, opened the car door as Beau helped Eliza into the car gently. “If you can’t find the culprit, then I’ll pin this on you.”

After that, he got into the car and the black Maserati sped into the night.

Tom stood there with his head dipped low. When the car disappeared from view, only then did he heaved in a deep breath and yelled, “Find the culprit now! Work overtime if you have to!”

One of the staff inched closer and said, “Do we need to investigate that woman’s identity?” Tom gave him a cold look. “You fool! How dare you pry into Mr. Valentine’s business!”

The staff left upon hearing that.

However, that woman’s identity was indeed interesting.

Tom smiled. Since she was one of the staff of Parson Media, he was bound to become successful in the entertainment circle!

Knowing that, Tom would do his best to investigate this accident.

The Maserati was speeding on the empty roads in the middle of the night.

In the car, Eliza had fallen asleep in Beau's arms.

She was still holding on to Beau's clothes. Her grip was so tight that it formed creases on his windbreaker.

Even though she was asleep, she was still in a state of alert.

Beau tucked the end of her hair behind her ear.

Staring at her face, Beau noticed that Eliza's facial features were very delicate. With her eyelashes flickering subtly, it seemed like she was having a dream.

"Don't touch me!"

"No, please don't..."

It seemed like she was having a nightmare. She tightened her grip on his shirt once again as she grimaced with fear.

Beau frowned and held her arm tightly.

"I think she is afraid of the dark."

After giving Eliza a mental health check, Owen reached a conclusion. "All her symptoms, which include uncontrollable jitters and nightmares, conclude her phobia of the dark."

Owen looked up at Beau and asked, "Has she experienced any form of emotional trauma in the past?"

Beau shook his head. "I don't know."

Beau had limited background information about Eliza. The only information he had about her was all given by the Lawson family.

Beau had no clue about her past at all. When Matthew asked him about Eliza's dark past, he had no idea what to say.

Beau was at a loss too when Owen asked him about her emotional trauma.

Before this, he thought that Eliza was just a simple woman with a normal background. Now, he realized that he wasn't familiar with her past at all.

For some reason, Beau felt irritated. "What on earth happened to her that left such a deep impact on her mental state?"

Owen remained silent for a while before he said, "Are you sure you want me to tell you?" Beau glared at him. His gaze was so penetrating it almost seemed like he could kill Owen any moment

now.

"You're the one who asked. Don't blame me if you don't like the answer." Owen cleared his throat and said, "I can't say. Emotional triggers are often unpredictable." "Your impotence stems from your inability to move on from that woman's death. As for Eliza, something bad might've happened to her in the dark, which caused her to develop a phobia for darkness."

The study was so quiet that they could even hear each other's breathing. The air in the room turned oppressive as Beau said sternly, "I'll say this again, I am perfectly capable down there." "I don't believe you." As soon as Beau finished speaking, someone pushed open the door of the study. Demarion placed his hands on his hips as he stood at the door. "If you're perfectly healthy, then why don't you give me a baby sister?" Owen was speechless. He really admired the little child's bravery. Beau took out his phone slowly and dialed a number. "Hi dad, your grandson, Demarion, will be playing chess with you tomorrow for the entire day."

Demarion was taken aback. "Daddy, that's not fair!"