

# Chapter 35 Don't Be Soft-Hearted

Reaching his large hands out, he flipped her over to face him. Putting down both of his hands on both sides of her, he pinned her down on the bed and stared at the complicated look on her face. Then, he asked hoarsely, "Was I too rough earlier, honey?"

What the h\*ll! Didn't he know if he was too rough or not?

Immediately, Catherine turned away because she didn't want to see that affectionate look on his face.

After all, she had experienced it countless times before. He would ridicule her but still stare into her eyes affectionately. At the same time, she would

get lost in his affectionate eyes and end up believing that he loved her. However, he would often stare at her affectionately and drive her into the darkest despair in the next moment. For once, she wouldn't be that silly anymore.

While her face was full of disdain mixed with disappointment and despair, she was frowning so intensely that her heart hurt.

Unable to help it, Ryan bent over and kissed her on her beautiful eyebrows.

"Come on, don't frown!" He whispered and kept his lips pressed on her eyebrows again.

At that moment, he sounded extremely gentle and she felt warmth coursing from her eyebrows and into her cold and dark heart, melting it into a mush.

Right now, she didn't want to be soft-hearted

toward him, she couldn't. Even if he truly had feelings for her under that ruthless exterior, it didn't change the fact that he was Jas' husband.

Trying her best to hide her feelings, she smirked sarcastically and uttered, "Are doing all this because you want to fuck me again? I have no right to refuse anyway so just do whatever you want! You don't have to asking me whether you were rough or gentle. To me, I did it unwillingly so it doesn't make any difference."

Wasn't she trying all kinds of ways to get him to fall for her? Why wasn't she willing to accept him when he wanted to make out with her?

Was she pretending right now or did she really begin to hate him that much? He couldn't allow her to hate him and neither could he allow her to have no feelings for him.

She should be feeling fear and pain when he

abused her, and she should be grateful when he treated her gently. That was the way it had to be!

Ignoring her, his lips wandered from her eyebrows gently toward her pretty little nose.

The whole time, he was as gentle as snowflakes falling from the sky as if he was afraid it would startle her.

Closing her eyes, Catherine kept telling herself that Ryan was messing with her, so she wouldn't be fooled or react to his tenderness whatsoever.

However, when his kiss landed on her luscious lips, a strange feeling still overwhelmed her entire body. No matter how much she tried to restrain herself, she couldn't stop her heart from beating fast.

Obviously, he knew her body too well. In the past two years, they spent so many nights together. At

this point, he was more familiar with her body than she was herself.

In fact, it was so easy for him to incite the most basic desire in her. How could she restrain human instinct?

Well, she ended up giving in to her inner desire.

Holding on, Catherine wouldn't let out a moan as she bit her lower lip tightly to the point that it was almost bleeding.

Frowning, he kissed her lips so that she would stop torturing herself.

This time, there was no roughness at all. From beginning to end, he observed her every reaction. When he saw her blush, he felt satisfied for some reason.

However, her heart hurt even more because she

couldn't endure the temptation of sexual pleasure, so she felt guilt and ashamed. Most importantly, she couldn't resist him at all.

Now that she was so wet, it meant that she was enjoying it, so why was she frowning so intensely?

At that moment, he felt like this d\*mn woman was like a cat who stayed in his heart and occasionally extended her claws to scratch his heart gently.

Every time he tried to conquer her, she would end up affecting him in some way and frustrate him.

# Chapter 36 I Don't Want It

At least, she had some feelings for him, contrary to what she had said, right? That should mean that he won and she lost.

"You are Jas' husband. Please stop treating me this way. I'm begging you." In the end, she couldn't resist his strength. Right before he was about to succeed once more, she couldn't help telling him how she felt.

At that moment, her pitiful gaze wavered him once more. Surprisingly, he actually let her go when it was the most unbearable moment under the effect of the supplement.

It was only after she heard the sound of the door closing that Catherine could truly relax.

He actually left. He spared her. A moment ago, she could feel his passion completely so it was definitely tormenting for him to give it up just like that.

Since he hated her so, why would he be soft-hearted when he faced her? She didn't want him to be soft-hearted because it would shake her determination to hate him.

Lying quietly in bed, she began thinking about what happened tonight. Ryan was strange today. His entire body felt like it was on fire and he was insanely strong the whole time when they had sex inside the car.

Did he drink too much before that?

But it was impossible. He didn't smell of alcohol. What was more, she had never seen him drink in the past two years except for his wedding so he should have great self-control.



Suddenly, her thoughts shifted from his strange behaviors tonight to his inexplicable hatred for her. From how her father reacted, she didn't have anything to do with him, but Luca said that she was asking the obvious question.

So, what was the truth behind it all? Was he the man by the hillside? Could she know everything if she could clearly see that man's face?

Closing her eyes, Catherine tried her best to recall the face of that man again but her head began to ache once more. Since she went back to her parent's house today, she gave Maria the day off so she was alone in the apartment right now. At that moment, she didn't dare to continue thinking for fear that she would fall unconscious again like what had happened last time.

After taking a shower, she forced herself to sleep.

Perhaps it was because she was exhausted, but

Catherine slept so deeply that she didn't even notice that Maria was back at around dawn.

Instead, she was awakened by the ringtone of her cellphone. From the ringtone, she could tell that it was Jasmine calling her.

"Where are you, Cath? I'll get Isaac to pick you up right now."

"I'm at the apartment—" Catherine replied in a daze.

"What apartment? Aren't you at home?" Jasmine found it strange since she knew that Catherine was a conservative person who didn't have a boyfriend. So, she shouldn't be staying over elsewhere.

Upon hearing Jasmine's question, Catherine completely woke up.

D\*mn it! She was so sleepy earlier that she told her she was in the apartment in her daze.

Suddenly, Catherine sat up and gave it some serious thought. Then, she lied, "Yes, one of my ex-colleague was celebrating her birthday yesterday. So, we drank till late and I ended up sleeping in her apartment."

"I see. You scared me to death! I was wondering what you were doing. Where is the apartment? I'll get Isaac to pick you up." As expected, Catherine was such a decent lady, she wouldn't do something like that.

"It's okay. Just tell me where to meet and I will go over."

"Come on, Isaac has nothing to do anyway. Why are you standing on ceremony with me?"

"I'm not. It's just that Isaac only wants to be

around you and I don't want him hating me. Hurry up and tell me where we're meeting. I'll be there after I wash up."

Glancing at Isaac right beside her, Jasmine smiled silently and mentioned, "Let's go to Paragon then."

Initially, she wanted to go to that snack shop where they always met near that elementary school, but it was too noisy there. Since she had something important to talk to her about, she had to find someone quieter.

When they met, it was ten in the morning and Paragon just opened for business so they were their first customers.

# Chapter 37 Souvenir

"I've bought you a souvenir, Cath. Since you didn't tell me what you want, I made the decision and bought this for you." As soon as they sat down and the waiter served tea, Jasmine pulled out an exquisite box from her bag and handed it over to Catherine.

Seeing the box, she could tell that the gift was something valuable and exquisite.

"This box looks so beautiful. I'm sure the gift must be something amazing. Thank you, Jas."

The whole time, Catherine tried her best to hide all the complicated emotions she had and tried her best to talk to her friend like she always did.

"Of course, would you ever doubt my taste? Even

the exterior of this box is carved by hand. Look at how realistic the carvings look." As Jasmine proudly introduced the box, Catherine carefully opened it. In it, there was a velvet cloth wrapping two bracelets, one big and the other small. At one glance, it was obvious that it was a pair of bracelets for a couple.

Since Azera was rich in silver, the two bracelets were made in pure silver.

However, what made this gift special wasn't its material but the moving love story behind it and the fact that it was unique in the world

"Look at the back of the bracelets. There's a Y carved on the back of one of them and an R on the other, and they each represent a man and a woman. According to the history, the prince of Azera was once saved by a female commoner when he was in danger. In the end, both of them fell deeply in love with each other."

"Since the woman's father was a silverware craftsman and she learned some relevant skills from him as well, she taught the prince some carving skills. Eventually, the prince used the necklace that his parents had given to him and that signified love and turned it into two bracelets instead. Then, he carved each of their names on each bracelet, the Y and the R."

"Later, the king and the queen found the prince, and the prince insisted on bringing the woman back to the palace. However, he ended up running into her kissing another man when he went to look for her at the place where they had dated before."

"It turns out, the queen secretly found the woman in advance and told her that the prince wouldn't succeed the throne if he didn't marry the princess of the neighboring country. The queen even told the woman that the prince would end up being assassinated by his brother if he failed to take power. So, the woman pretended to betray her

lover to save him. Once the prince left her, the woman left her hometown and went to the city because she wanted to be live near the prince."

"For the sake of her livelihood and also to get rid of the misery of being lovesick, she began crafting silver bracelets. All of the bracelets she made were handcrafted and they all looked slightly different. But the only thing that was similar was that they all had Y and R carved on the back of each bracelet. After returning to the palace, the prince didn't marry the princess of the neighboring kingdom and beat his brother with his own abilities. In the end, he succeeded to the throne that rightfully belonged to him."

"However, he never forgot the woman. Later on, his mother told him the truth and sent people to her hometown to look for her but they couldn't find her."

"Until one day, the king saw a familiar bracelet on



the wrist of a noble. When taking a closer look at the letter carved on the back, he knew the bracelet was made by that woman and then he find her in the end."

"From then on, both of them lived happily ever after" Turning the bracelet around to show the letter to Catherine, Jasmine told her the entire story.

"Each pair of these bracelets have different designs and they are completely unique, Cath. When you find someone you love, give him this bracelet with Y because it has been blessed by the God of love. With these bracelets on, your love would be eternal," Jasmine explained to Catherine as her hand instinctively touched her own silver bracelet.

It was only then that Catherine noticed Jasmine also wore a bracelet as well.

"Did you put it on him too?" Catherine asked.

"Of course," Jasmine replied and smiled sweetly.

However, why didn't Catherine see that matching bracelet on Ryan's wrist when they met and had sex several times before?

Clearly, Ryan and Jasmine seemed so deeply in love with each other, there was no reason for him not to wear the token of their love for each other. Did he take it off before he came to see her? That was impossible! Subconsciously, Catherine clutched tightly to the bracelets, lost in thought.

"Why don't you put down the bracelet first, Cath. I still have something important to tell you." At that moment, Jasmine's reminder brought Catherine back to her senses.

Meanwhile, she knew that Jasmine would be angry if she didn't accept the gift, so she put the

bracelets back to the box and carefully put it into her bag.

Actually, it was already impossible for her to give this to anyone. Besides, there was no one to give, so all she could do was treat it as a token of their friendship.

# Chapter 38 Something Important

The last time she mentioned something important, she had talked of Leonardo. Was she going to talk of that man again this time?

"I'm in trouble," Jasmine said with a long face. After pouring herself a cup of tea, she took a sip.

"What trouble? Can I help you?" Usually, she would be able to help if Jasmine came to her with a problem.

"Listen to me first. The thing is, Old Mr. Walker only has one son, and he is the chairman of Walker Group, Jacob Walker. Do you know about this?"

Upon hearing that, Catherine nodded but didn't say a word and continued to listen.

"During the war, Old Mr. Walker got injured and became sterile so he places great emphasis on his offspring. But it was a good thing that Ryan has three brothers so Old Mr. Walker was relieved about this at least. However, he is quite old right now and wants great-grandchildren pretty desperately at the moment."

Of course, Catherine understood it as much. Even her mother was beginning to be desperate for grandchildren at her age, not to mention someone as old as Old Mr. Walker, who even had to suffer infertility after the war.

However, she didn't understand how this was troublesome for Jasmine. Shouldn't she be happy that her baby would be loved by the whole family the moment the baby was born?

"Do you know, Cath? I feel so stressed right now. Actually..." Just then, she took another sip of tea before finishing the rest of the sentence.

"I'm ill... I can't get pregnant and I'm still under treatment. I don't even know whether and when it can be treated." Looking depressed, Jasmine took another sip of tea.

"What?" Catherine raised her voice in disbelief.

In the past, Jasmine would always exaggerate and mention casually , "I'm in trouble." Even when her results were poor, she would say the same thing. As a result, Catherine also thought that this was going to be something trivial when Jasmine said "I'm in trouble".

Instead, the truth shocked her so much this time that she spilled tea over her own hand.

Although her hand felt burning, she couldn't care about it right now since she felt miserable for her best friend.

After the initial shock, Catherine realized that she

would end up worsening how Jasmine felt if she talked to her seriously.

So, she quickly calmed down, held Jasmine's hand, and gently comforted her,

"Don't worry, Jas. It will definitely be cured."

Despite saying that, she was sighing for Jasmine deep down. Why would someone as kind as Jasmine have to suffer from this? How could a family as prominent as the Walkers tolerate a infertile woman in this situation?

From the looks of it, she was really in trouble this time. In fact, it was seriously great trouble.

If only she could help Jasmine with this right now. However, this was exactly the kind of thing that no one could help her with.

"Don't worry. As the medicine is so advanced

today, I'm not really that desperate. It's just that no one from the Walkers, including Ryan, knows I can't have a baby. It was Old Mr. Walker's birthday yesterday, and Old Mrs. Walker forced me and Ryan to stay the night in their house. They even had Robert prepare some tonics for me and Ryan. I guess they're really desperate for grandchildren now." When Jasmine mentioned that, she instantly blushed.

However, she would only share such personal things with Catherine alone.

Tonics? What Jasmine said shocked her again. But this time, something occurred to Catherine.

No wonder Ryan was so powerful and horny last night. But then again, if he was at Walker Manor with Jasmine last night, there was already someone there to help him release the tonic's effects no matter how strong it was. So, why did he still come and see her in the middle of the



night?

Was it because Jasmine have difficulty having sex with him, on top of being infertile?

But that was impossible since Catherine clearly heard on the phone that Jasmine moaned while having sex with Ryan last time.

Yet, Ryan didn't wear the bracelet Jasmine have given to him, and he even came to see her after taking the tonic. With all these in mind, Catherine couldn't help wondering if there was a possibility that he didn't love Jasmine as much as what they seemed.

If Ryan didn't love Jasmine, shouldn't she have felt it? So, why did she tell Catherine that she was happy?

"Since Jasmine was even willing to tell me about the tonic thing, she wouldn't have hidden it from

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me if there were problems in her relationship with Ryan." Catherine thought to herself.