

A Bird in the Cage by Wild Dandelion

Chapter 57

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Chapter 57 Insomnia

At this point, his actions had shown that he had no intentions to discuss the past with her. So, she could only take the hint and stop mentioning it. Otherwise, she wouldn't get the answer she wanted anyway.

Earlier today, he probably did not hear her conversation with Jasmine. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so calm right now.

She was also worried that Victoria would tell Jasmine about their secret.

When she thought of this, she turned to Ryan and asked, "Victoria knows Jas, right? Do you think she'll,"

"No. She's not the kind to run her mouth off. Go to sleep. If you don't sleep now, I won't let you sleep."

Quickly, she turned back around. In fact, she did it so fast that it kind of annoyed Ryan.

'Is she really so afraid of me? Is she so against being intimate with me? That probably isn't the case right? She probably wants me, but she doesn't want to let me know about it. To be honest, she's pretty interesting.' Ryan said to himself.

At that point, he really wanted to hug her and tease her. However, he was afraid that he wouldn't be able to control himself so he gave up on that idea.

Instead, he went into the study to pick up a book. Then, he leaned against the bed and read it while he listened to her breathing slowly relax.

A while later, she fell asleep. Perhaps it was because of the sense of security she felt when he was by her side, which made her no longer feel as

uneasy as before.

When he realized that she had fallen asleep, he put down the book and slowly approached her to watch her sleep. She was as beautiful as a fairy. Sleeping like a baby, she seemed like she no longer had any worry in the world.

For a long time, he stared at her obsessively. There were even a few times where he wanted to touch her tender lips, but he was worried that it would wake her.

'Are I crazy?'

'Do I really fall in love with her? No. How can that be? Perhaps it's because she has kept driving me away so I just want to control her. It doesn't have anything to do with love at all.' he thought.

This night, Ryan suffered from insomnia.

The whole night, he kept thinking about their past, her appearance, and her mystery. Sometimes, she looked innocent, but secretly scheming. Other times, she seemed coquettish and adorable, but sharp as a knife.

Just like this, he observed her for a long time while recalling what had happened between them. Sometimes, when he thought of something funny about her, he felt like laughing while sometimes, he also felt annoyed at her. Eventually, he stared at her till dawn broke.

When he noticed that she was about to wake up, he didn't want her to see him stay up for a whole night so he hurriedly got changed and left.

It turned out, Catherine had sweet dreams last night. In her dreams, she was dancing with Cayden under a cherry blossom tree.

While they danced, he was so elegant and

graceful. However, she realized that his face slowly morphed into Ryan's after a closer glance.

In the dream, he assumed Cayden's identity so she didn't need to care about the fact that he was Jasmine's husband, and she could gently lean on him while they danced together endlessly...

was last night the first time that he stayed with her the entire night?

Just when she no longer had any expectations of him, he finally stayed the night with her.

When she turned around, she was surprised to see that he had already gone. At that moment, she laughed at herself for being silly. Did she really think he was going to be there just because he had said so?

Then, what was she looking forward to? If he was here, she wouldn't have to be afraid, but Jasmine

would.

Shaking her head, she tried to get rid of that a**hole's image from her mind. Getting up to wash up, she put on some makeup and got herself prepared to meet with Leonardo today.

Once she was done, Maria knocked the door and asked her concernedly whether Ryan had come over last night. When they were done chatting, she made up a lie and went out..

Since Leonardo wasn't sure whether she would answer her call, he sent her a message instead.

"Yo, Catherine the Beauty. This is Leonardo. Let's meet at Bristot at ten-thirty, okay?"

After she responded with an "okay", she saved his contact number. Then, she gave it some thought and gave him the name "Lenny Banks" so it would sound like a normal classmate's name. That way,

she wouldn't arouse Ryan's suspicions.

Since it was still early, Catherine went by the bookstore before heading to the cafe.

By then, Leonardo had already been waiting at the entrance for a long time.

"Catherine, Catherine the Beauty! You're so beautiful today." Leonardo smiled.

"Do I look very tacky?" Catherine suddenly asked him.

"Tacky? No, you look out of this world and refreshing."

"If that's the case, don't call me Catherine the Beauty anymore."

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Chapter 58 Camilla Stockton

Blushing, Leonardo smiled in embarrassment because he didn't expect Catherine to be so sharp-tongued. After all, she was a little different from the last time he saw her.

"Then what should I call you?"

"How about Camilla Stockton? That's actually another name I use." That was a name she had thought of on her way here.

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Since they were intending to let his family know that he was going out with someone, he had to tell them her name, right?

If he was to mention Catherine's name, Ryan would instantly know that. Since her mother's maiden name was Stockton, she thought she

could come up with a name like that. Assuming Ryan didn't know her mother's maiden name, she was thinking that it would be safe.

"Camilla sounds good. It suits you actually. Let's go inside and have a talk?"

"You don't have to be so polite with me." Catherine smiled faintly. For some reason, she felt like Leonardo was feeling a little uneasy.

Smiling, he didn't answer; instead, he gestured for her to enter.

When they entered the cafe, they sat down at a table by the window.

Just then, Leonardo asked, "What would you like to drink?"

"Just a cup of cappuccino."

"A cup of cappuccino and a cup of latte please, thank you!" Leonardo informed the waiter.

From the looks of it, his every move seemed somewhat similar to Ryan. At that moment, Catherine began to think that maybe Leonardo looked up to his brother a lot, so he constantly imitated Ryan.

"Cammy," Leonardo uttered. He wanted to close the distance between them.

However, she wasn't used to the new name yet, let alone a shortened nickname. So, when she was deep in thought about how Ryan and Leonardo seemed familiar, she didn't respond to it.

"Camilla?"

"Oh, right. Just call me Camilla. There's no need to call me Cammy. You'll make me think I'm old since it sounds like the name of a nagging old woman."

Amused by her, Leonardo replied, "Actually, I was hoping you'd be a bit more nagging. At the very least, I would be able to know more about you."

"Please don't think that way. I came here today for the purpose of helping Jas. It's impossible for us to get together, so I hope you don't misunderstand anything." Right now, Catherine felt like there was a need to clarify this so that he would not misunderstand her.

"I was joking. Please don't mind me."

"Hello, sir. Here is your latte!" the waiter announced politely and served it. Soon after, Catherine's cappuccino arrived as well.

Now that they had coffee, it didn't feel as awkward as before since they were stirring their own cups.

Catherine did not know how to act in this situation. If she was meeting a stranger, she would be

talking even more. However, who she was deal with was Ryan's brother, so she felt a little reserved deep down.

Even though she wasn't Ryan's woman or anything, they had an intimate relationship that didn't really allow her to be too close to his brother.

As for Leonardo, he didn't know what to say after being so brutally rejected by her twice in a row.

"Camilla."

"Yes?"

"How about we talk about something to improve our understanding of each other? What do you : think?" he asked cautiously this time.

Upon hearing that, Catherine couldn't help but laugh, and the uneasiness she felt just now

instantly disappeared.

"Actually, I heard a bald man say that to me when I went on a blind date. You feel nervous when you

see me?"

It was said that he was a playboy, but why was he so shy every time she met him?

Besides, it was a little rare for someone as thick-skinned as Ryan to have such a shy little brother.

"I'm indeed a little nervous right now," Leonardo replied honestly.

"Many people said you're a ladykiller, and that you would pounce at any woman you see almost instantly," Catherine teased with pursed lips.

"Those are all just rumors. Actually, I'm a pretty simple man. In 24 years, I have never been in a

relationship before. All those rumors about me were for..." Suddenly, he felt a bit embarrassed to continue.

Just then, she asked with a smile, "For what?"

"For my family to think of me that way. Most importantly, I did it so my brother would pay attention to my existence," he explained with a bitter smile. At that point, even he was surprised that he would tell Catherine this secret.

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Chapter 59 Big Brother

In the Walker family, Leonardo and Ryan received different education. Since young, Ryan was nurtured to become a qualified future successor of the family business. His families always required him to be calm, rational, strict, and self-disciplined. Meanwhile, as the youngest son, Leonardo was allowed a little more freedom.

Both Jacob and her wife were busy so they didn't have the time to care for their children's feelings. So, it was Ryan who had taken care of his other siblings like their parent.

Meanwhile, Robert didn't share the same mother as Ryan, so Ryan was worried that this brother would grow up improperly so he paid more attention to him. However, that, in turn, caused him to neglect his biological brother and sister,

Leonardo and Lily.

As a result, Leonardo and Lily were both incredibly rebellious. In the past, they would often do things that seemed out of line to a lot of people just to get their parents' and Ryan's attention.

After hearing him say that, Catherine actually began to sympathize with Leonardo.

As a selfish person, Ryan probably couldn't show concern to anyone else. How could he neglect his own brother just because he was the successor to Walker Group? He was so heartless!

"It seems like he's just a villain through and through. It must have been difficult for you all this while," Catherine replied.

"That's not it. My brother is not like that. Actually, he's a kind person. Although I'm the one who handles all the charity activities for Walker Group, I

am only a figurehead in all of these. The person who is truly responsible for all the charity work is my brother. By the way, if we get the chance, I would like to bring you to an orphanage our family sponsors. The children there are adorable, and they love playing with me."

"Sure!" Catherine answered happily since she loved children a lot too.

Eventually, their conversation felt more relaxing. After another two hours of chatting, they finally parted ways.

After rejecting his offer to walk her home, she went back alone.

When she walked past the area where she had , been attacked yesterday, she felt scared so she inadvertently picked up her pace.

Just then, a sanitation worker happened to pass

by and picked up some newspaper someone had littered. Walking away, he took a look at it.

"This homeless guy was just walking around here a few days ago. How did he die so suddenly? D*mn! What a scary coincidence!" When Catherine heard what he said, she could feel her hair stand on end.

Could it be such a coincidence that the man he mentioned was the homeless man who had tried to attack her that night?

"Can you take a look, sir?" Catherine hurriedly approached the sanitation worker and asked with a trembling voice.

The whole time, she kept telling her that she was wrong. After all, Ryan promised her that he wouldn't hurt that madman.

"Take it. Just return it to me when you're done. I

want to sell it as scraps." The sanitation worker stopped and seized her up before handing the newspaper to her.

After nodding her head, Catherine took the newspaper from him and scanned the headlines quickly. Immediately, the headline caught her attention and it read, "Homeless man dropped dead on the streets for no reason."

Below it, there was a detailed article and a photo of the homeless person.

It was really him! That was the man who had been grinning at her yesterday. Now that she saw his picture, she saw that both his eyes were closed, and he was completely lifeless in the picture.

For a moment, she held a breath, and her face turned pale. Holding the newspaper in her hand, she felt her hands shaking.

How could Ryan be so cruel? Just like that, he took the man's life. Was he still human?

"Let me have the newspaper back. I have to work now," the sanitation worker reminded Catherine after noticing a couple throw some food packaging on the ground.

Snapping out of her daze, she was shaking when she took out some change for the sanitation worker.

"I'm buying this newspaper." Immediately, she hailed a taxi and headed straight for the Walker Group building.

Right now, she wanted to see Ryan so that she could personally listen to his explanation.

Now that it was a life-and-death matter, she couldn't turn a blind eye to it, even if he was a mentally ill person who had attacked her before.

Even if Ryan did this to avenge her, she wouldn't allow it!

For the entire morning, Ryan had been in meetings. When the meetings ended, Luca wanted to report to him. However, when he saw Ryan massaging his temples, he decided not to add to the pressure on his boss.

"What would you like for lunch, Mr. Walker?"

"Just get something from The Bright Orchid," Ryan ordered as he subconsciously grinned.

After losing a whole night's sleep, he didn't really have an appetite. However, when he thought about Catherine, his spirits felt lifted all of a sudden.

Fidgeting with his cellphone, he planned to call her and let her come over to Walker Group to have

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Chapter 60 Being Infuriated

When Luca received the order, he felt a little distressed. From the looks of it, Ryan seemed to care more about that woman. Why would that scheming woman keep pestering him?

“pick Catherine up and buy us lunch before coming back here,” Ryan instructed. If it wasn’t for the fact that there was another meeting in the afternoon, he would have gone to the apartment to see her.

Just when Luca wanted to talk to Ryan, he realized that Ryan had put his focus back on his computer. } So, he had no choice but to leave silently.

Not too long after he left, the landline on Ryan’s desk rang.

“There’s a lady here called Catherine who insists

on meeting you,”

“Send her up!”

At that moment, Ryan realized that something was odd. Why would Catherine come over here?

Could she wanted to see him just as he did her?

That couldn’t be! After all, she was always so worried that Jasmine would find out about their secret relationship,for more Daily updates visit :- she wouldn’t be so brazen to come to the company like this.

Just when he was guessing the reason for her sudden visit, Ryan’s secretary had already led her to his office door.

When his secretary gently knocked on the door, Catherine immediately barged in.

After wasting so much time with the front desk earlier and now that the person she wanted to question was a door away, she couldn’t wait any longer.

Just then, Catherine’s sudden intrusion frightened Ryan’s secretary, Ashley Burnett, so the latter followed Catherine in while she constantly apologized.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Walker!”

Looking up at Catherine, Ryan could tell that she was infuriated.

Waving his hands, he gestured for Ashley to leave first.

Although she had been working for Ryan for quite some time now, this was the first time she witnessed someone barging into his office and challenging his authority.

All along, she had nothing but admiration for her boss. In fact, one could say that she adored him. However, she had been carefully hiding these feelings from him and everyone around.

But then again, Catherine's willfulness and Ryan's forgiving expression made her realize that perhaps men rarely loved women who had no personality.

As usual, her habitual obedience to him made her turn around and leave without saying anything.

Immediately, Catherine walked up to Ryan and slammed the newspaper on his desk. In an authoritative tone, she questioned him, "Is this how you resolve the issue, Ryan? It's no wonder you said that he won't be hurting me anymore. Of course, a dead person wasn't going to hurt anyone!"

Although Ryan had no idea what she was talking about, he could tell from her attitude and her tone

that she was furious.

At that moment, he didn't have the time to care whether she was being rude or not. Instead, his focus was on the newspaper.

Reaching out, he grabbed the newspaper and noticed the headline about death of the homeless man. Instantly, his eyebrows furrowed intensely.

"He's dead?" he uttered in disbelief. Earlier, he clearly remembered instructing Luca to send him home and keep him there if he was mentally ill.. If he was not, Luca was supposed to find a way to put him in jail and let him pay for what he had done to Catherine.

But why was he dead? Could Luca have misunderstood him? Did Luca think Ryan wanted the homeless man dead?

When she saw how innocent his expression was,

she wanted so badly to believe that he knew nothing about it. However, he was always an good actor.

Scoffing disdainfully, she challenged, "What's wrong? Are you going to deny something you did now?for more Daily updates visit :- Don't tell me that it has nothing to do with you. It's my fault. I shouldn't have trusted you. You've told me you won't hurt him!"

Wasn't that the case? Earlier today, Leonardo even told her how good his brother was. From the looks of it, he even had his brother deceived as well.

How ironic! Before she asked whether he did it or not, she had already blamed the death of that man on him! This d*mned woman really deserved to die. Not only did she not believe him, but she was treating him like a murderous devil.

Now that she had misunderstood him this way, was there even a need to explain anything?

Casually, he tossed the newspaper on the desk and crossed his legs. Shaking his legs a bit, he casually grinned and asked her indifferently, for more Daily updates visit :- “You’re right. I killed him. What are you going to do about it?”

“You...” He was really a devil. Before this, she was still hesitant to believe that he would do it.

But what did she come here for? She just wanted to hear him confess to his crime?