

Boss Your Wife's Asking for A Divorce Again Chapter 731 Read Online

Chapter 731 Daphne's Longing

Toby sat down and held her by her waist, then he pecked her cheek. "Yep."

"Oh, you smoked." Sonia frowned when she smelled the stench of tobacco. She then pushed his face away so he couldn't kiss her.

Toby was surprised, then he smelled himself. "That obvious?"

"No, but I can smell it." She shook her head. It wasn't rancid at all. In fact, it had a hint of sweetness to it, but she disliked tobacco, so she disliked its smell as well. "Why did you smoke anyway?" She steamed the ground beans. "Did something annoy you? You were on the phone for a while."

Toby sipped some water. "It's alright. I've settled it."

"I see." Sonia nodded and stopped asking. She killed the heat and put a cap on it, then she poured two cups of coffee.

She gave Toby a cup. "Blue Mountain coffee. Original, just like you like it. See how it tastes. It's my first time making it, but I think I didn't overcook it."

Toby picked up the dark, luscious coffee and smelled it, then he smiled. "It smells great, so I bet it tastes nice. And you made it yourself. I'll finish it even if it's bad."

Sonia rolled her eyes. "My, someone's having a glib tongue. Where did you pick that up?"

"It's my true feelings. I'm not being smooth," he said seriously.

Sonia shook her head in amusement. "Just drink it." She looked down and added milk and sugar to her coffee. Unlike Toby, she had to add a few things to her coffee, or it'd be too bitter for her.

"How long did you talk to Zane?" Toby suddenly put his coffee down and stared at her, as if he wanted to know the answer right away.

Sonia arched her eyebrow. "Why? Jealous?"

"If you talked to him for too long, then yes." He admitted it honestly and pursed his lips. "You know how much he likes you."

Sonia stirred her coffee and smiled. "Two minutes. Happy?"

Two minutes? Toby smiled. "Not bad."

Sonia held her forehead.

Daphne knocked on the door and came in. "Chairman Reed, President Fuller, it's lunch time. What would you two like? I'll order them."

Sonia looked at Toby, obviously asking what he wanted. He was a guest after all, so she had to put him first.

Toby shook his head. "I'll have whatever you have, Sonia."

Daphne smiled. "President Fuller really loves you, doesn't he? He'll have whatever you have."

Sonia blushed. "You're exaggerating."

"I'm not. Am I right, President Fuller?" Daphne looked at Toby.

Toby put his coffee down and nodded at Daphne with approval. "You're right. She's my lover, so of course I'm spoiling her. It's all about her. I'll have whatever she has." He then looked at her lovingly.

Sonia's face turned even redder, and her ears turned scarlet as well. Gorgeous. He would have held her chin and kissed her if there were nobody else around. Toby suddenly shot Daphne a glare. What an eyesore. But then, if she didn't come in and say that, Sonia wouldn't have blushed either.

Daphne noticed Toby's displeasure, and she was confused. Did I do or say something wrong? Why is he glaring at me? She tilted her head, but since she couldn't figure it out, she put it aside and looked at Sonia. "What would you like, Chairman Reed? The usual?"

Sonia thought about it and nodded. "Sure, but add two more dishes for me. I'll take some orange crabs and some fried shrimp balls."

Toby's eyes shone, and his smile broadened. My favorite.

Daphne adjusted her glasses. "Got it. I'll call the restaurant right away." Then, she turned around to leave.

Sonia remembered something, and she stopped Daphne. "Daphne, hold on."

"Anything, Chairman Reed?" Daphne stopped.

Sonia looked at her. "I called Charles a while ago, and we talked about you."

Daphne was surprised, but she calmed down quickly and asked, "What did Mr. Lane say, Chairman Reed?" She started clenching her fists nervously.

Charles never liked her. He didn't even ask about her after he sent her over to Sonia, nor did he care how she was doing or if she could get used to Paradigm. After Charles sent her over, it was like she never existed to him, so she was pleasantly surprised that he suddenly asked Sonia about her. I wonder why he's asking. Is he thinking about me after what happened back then? Daphne started to make up theories of her own.

She knew it wasn't probable, but what if it was true? Don't people say that a man always remembers his first woman? I've worked for him for many years now, and I know I'm his first. Maybe he actually misses me after what happened that night and came to ask Chairman Reed about me. Her heart started pounding, and she looked at Sonia expectantly, wanting to hear the answer she longed for.

Sonia and Toby could see the expectant look in her eyes and her excitement, since she wasn't hiding it, and they looked at each other.

Toby stayed calm. After all, he didn't care about anyone besides Sonia. On the other hand, Sonia sighed silently and felt sorry for Daphne. "Daphne..." Sonia didn't want to do it, but she decided to tell Daphne after all.

She shouldn't live in her fantasies forever, or she'll get sucked in and think that's true. And when the bubble pops, she'll suffer for a long time. I have to wake her up before she gets fully sucked in. It will hurt for a while, but it's better than the other route.

Daphne knew Sonia was going to talk, so she snapped out of it. "Oh, yes, Chairman Reed. What did he say?"

"Um... He asked me if you're acting weird lately."

Daphne blanched, and all her hopes and dreams were dashed. She stiffened up and only asked after some time, "Did he only ask that one question, Chairman Reed?"

"Yes." Sonia nodded.

Daphne clenched her fists. "What did he mean by me acting weird?" Did he find out about my morning sickness and guessed that I got pregnant? Is that why he called Chairman Reed? To get confirmation?

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Chapter 732 You Don't Trust Me

When she realized that that was a possibility, she was overwhelmed by a great sense of fear, and it squeezed her heart. With how much Charles disliked her, she knew he would never allow her to be pregnant with his child, but when she went to the hospital to get a checkup, the doctor already confirmed that she was pregnant. If Mr. Lane finds out, he'll force me to abort. But I don't want to do that. I want to give birth to this baby.

Sonia was worried about Daphne, since she was looking pale. "Are you alright, Daphne? Why are you looking so pale all of a sudden?"

Daphne stared down. "I'm alright."

"Really?" Sonia looked at her, obviously not believing Daphne. She looks so pale. That can't be alright.

"I'm fine, really." She shook her head adamantly and repeated her earlier question, "Chairman Reed, why did Mr. Lane want to know if I'm acting weird anyway? What does he mean by 'acting weird?'"

"I'm sorry, Daphne, but I don't know either. I asked him, but he said nothing. He said something happened between you two, so he wants to know if you're acting weird lately. That's all." Sonia looked at her with an apologetic smile.

Daphne bit her lip, and she started feeling really nervous. "How did you answer him?" If she told him I retched, it'd be a disaster.

Sonia didn't know why Daphne was so nervous, but she shrugged and answered honestly, "I told him you're fine."

Daphne looked at her. "You didn't tell him I'm feeling unwell?"

Sonia shook her head. "No. You're feeling unwell because you're sick. That's not acting weird. Why should I tell him that?"

Daphne secretly heaved a sigh of relief and looked at Sonia gratefully. "I see. Thank you, Chairman Reed."

She bowed to Sonia. Good thing she didn't notice what Mr. Lane was talking about. If not, she might have told him about my retching, and he would have figured out I'm pregnant. He might force me to get the abortion.

Sonia didn't understand why Daphne was suddenly thanking her, nor did she understand why Daphne looked so relieved. Sonia waved her hands and said, "Don't mention it. I was just telling the truth. What happened between you guys anyway?"

Daphne stared down and stayed quiet.

Oh, she can't say. Sonia shook her head. "It's alright if you don't want to talk about it, but if you guys have a misunderstanding, please clear it up. If you don't, it'll be harder to clear it up later. You want to be with him, right? So talk it through with him."

Daphne forced a smile. "I understand. Thank you for the tip."

"Alright." Sonia waved her away.

Daphne took a deep breath and turned around, then she went toward the door, but her footsteps felt heavier than they were when she came in. Eventually, she left, and the door was closed.

Suddenly, Toby blocked Sonia's sight and stopped her from looking at the door.

Sonia pulled his hand away, then she turned around. "What are you doing?"

"You're spending too much time sending her off." He hugged her.

Sonia was amused. "I was just sending my secretary off. You're jealous of her?"

He snorted. "They're not me. You can only look at me like that."

"You're such a baby." She rolled her eyes and refilled her cup with coffee.

Toby pushed his cup over to her. "I want some too."

Sonia might have grumbled about him, but she refilled his cup anyway. Toby happily picked the cup up and took a sip. "Your secretary seems to be scared of Charles."

"Yes," Sonia said. "I noticed it too. She looked pale when I said Charles asked if she was acting weird. Judging from her later reactions to my questions, it's obvious that she's afraid of him finding out about something."

"You want to know what that something is?" Toby glanced at her.

She arched her eyebrow. "You know what it is?"

"No." He shook his head.

The corner of her lips twitched. "Why did you say that then?"

"I'm just saying that I can get someone to look into it if you want to know. He can't hide from me even if he wants to." He looked down and kissed her forehead.

Sonia shook her head. "No. Charles is my friend. I can't snoop around just because I'm curious. That's disrespectful."

"Fine." Toby shrugged. "I don't want you to pay attention to him either."

Sonia laughed. "You really get jealous of everything, huh?"

"Well, there's only one you, but there are a lot of people who want a piece of you." Toby caressed her cheek.

Sonia's cheek was feeling itchy, so she held his hand and pulled it away. "Same goes to you, Toby. There's only one of you, but there are a lot of girls who want a piece of you. I remember you topping the charts of 'Men Women Want to Marry Most' for the longest time. Congrats, Mr. Fuller." She looked up and smirked at him.

He frowned. "It's just some chart those women came up with because they're bored. I don't care about it. I'm all yours, so don't worry about it." He pecked her lips.

She was looking up, and it made it easier for him to kiss. She didn't expect the kiss to come so suddenly so she was startled, then she covered her lips and shot him a glare. "You're such a cheeky opportunist, aren't you?"

Toby chuckled in response.

Sonia pushed him away. "You're a smooth talker."

"I'm not." He held her by her waist and pulled her into his embrace, then he looked at her. "It's my true feelings." Look at my eyes. My feelings are genuine.

Toby was looking serious, but Sonia rolled her eyes.

Toby frowned slightly, then he held her face. "You don't believe me?"

"You're imagining things." She smacked his hands away.

He looked at the back of his hand, then at her. "I am not. You have to say you believe me."

"No." She turned her head away.

He pulled her back to face him. "If you don't say it, then it means you don't trust me."

"You're really imagining things." She held her forehead. He's being a pain right now. He wasn't like this. Why did he even become this way anyway? Sonia was immersed in her thoughts at this moment.

Toby noticed her spacing out, and he pursed his lips. "I'm talking to you, and you got distracted?"

Sonia snapped out of it. "Huh? What were you saying?"

The veins on his forehead throbbed, and his voice took on a menacing tone. "I want you to say you trust me."

"You're still on about that?" Sonia was slightly annoyed. "It's just a little statement. Don't get obsessed over it. All that matters is I trust you with all my heart. I don't have to say it out loud."

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Chapter 733 Clingy

"No." He put his forehead against hers and gave her a serious look. "You have to trust me, and you have to say it, so let me hear it. I can't rest easy if I don't hear it, so you have to say it."

Sonia resigned, so she said, "Fine, fine. I'll say it, alright? I trust you. There, happy?"

Toby smiled happily.

Amused, Sonia pinched his face. "Why are you acting like a child?"

"Only to you." He puffed his chest out.

Sonia was amused. "And you seem proud about it."

"Why not?" He looked up with pride. "That's a compliment to me."

She shook her head. "I'm not complimenting you, though I won't say anything if you want to take it that way."

"Then I will take it that way." He sipped some coffee, then he recalled something. "Oh, right. About the machines from Kosovo. You told the factory workers to assemble the first batch already, right?"

"Yes. They're done, and it's great."

"Did you find a seller?" he asked again.

Sonia nodded. "Of course. I called them before the machines came. I'm not the newbie president anymore, you know. I arrange stuff beforehand so I won't fumble at the last moment."

"Not bad," he praised.

Sonia smiled as well.

"So, which company did you partner with?" Toby put his coffee down and looked at her.

"Excellence Co.," she answered.

Toby nodded. "Not bad. A century of good reputation. You have a great eye for this."

Sonia smiled. "Not me, but my dad. He worked with Excellence Co. a lot when he was still alive. The company's leader is my father's friend, so we're working well together."

Toby grunted. "Excellence Co. just opened a new mall, and they're going to start business at the end of this month. Did they give you an invitation?" He would bring her there if she had no invitation. I heard Excellence Co. just hired some experts in heavy industry. I can introduce them to her as it's her company's main business. Once it gets listed again, some changes must be made, and expert opinions are needed for that.

Sonia didn't know Toby was planning for her. She went to her desk and took out a purple invitation from her drawer. "Guess what this is?"

Toby arched his eyebrow. "So you got it already. Not bad."

She put the invitation back. "I just got it yesterday. I was about to tell you, but I forgot. If you hadn't mentioned it, I wouldn't have thought about it."

"Come with me then." He looked at her invitation. "As my lover."

Sonia went over to him. "Sure." Since they were dating again, she wouldn't say no to attending events together.

"That's settled, then. I'll pick you up on the day of the event."

"Sure." She nodded.

Toby left after lunch. He was about to stay with her until her work was over and go back to Bayside Residence, but Tom called halfway through lunch and said the company needed him to handle some work, so he had to leave. But before he left, he clung to her and seemed reluctant to go to work. If it weren't for her telling him to go back to his company, he might have actually stayed.

He did leave in the end, but before he did, he had asked her to kiss him multiple times, or he wouldn't have left. She looked in the mirror and noticed that her lips were swollen again from the kissing, then she sighed. He's getting clingier. I can't keep up with him at this rate. She put her compact powder down and shook her head in amusement.

"Chairman Reed." Daphne knocked on the door at this moment.

Sonia collected herself and sat up. "Come in," she said.

Daphne came in. "Chairman Reed, the renovators from the factory called. They want to know when you're going to check on the items and see if any changes need to be made. If it's fine with you, they can tell their company and go ahead to finish the job."

Sonia looked at the date on her PC. "They finished the job in less than two months? That's fast."

"Well, we're all waiting to move into our own factory, so we nudged them a little so they would work faster. That's why they finished it so soon." Daphne adjusted her glasses and smiled.

Sonia smiled as well. "I like efficient companies like this. And what about the museum next door?"

"That's going to take longer. They're aiming for that vibe, so it's going slow. Besides, Titus' men trashed the place, so that set us back. They haven't even finished building the structure yet, let alone renovate it." Daphne shrugged.

Sonia sighed. "We dragged them into this." If she didn't rent half of the land to the government so they could build the museum up, she couldn't have built her factory. Titus kept coming over to sabotage her, and the museum actually shielded her once. Titus' goons wanted to trash her factory, but in the end, they destroyed the museum instead thanks to her. Because of her, the museum suffered a setback, and as compensation, her company covered all the food expenses for the museum's builders.

Sonia massaged her temples. "Since the museum needs time to be finished, then we'll keep the cafeteria there. Once our factory is done with the renovation, close down the factory's cafeteria." She had promised that she would cover all food expenses for the museum builders until the museum was finished.

"Yes, Chairman." Daphne nodded.

Sonia looked at her schedule. "Tell the renovators I'm going to check on their progress this weekend. If they're not working on weekends, then just send a representative to wait for me."

"Yes," Daphne said.

Sonia looked at her. "Anything else?"

"No." She shook her head.

Sonia smiled. "You may leave now."

"Yes." Daphne nodded and left the office.

After she left, Sonia took her pen and was about to work, but then her phone rang, so she picked it up. Tim? She tilted her head to the side in surprise. Why did he call me? She took the call without hesitation. "Anything you need, Dr. Lancaster?"

"She's getting jailed, isn't she?" Tim cut to the chase.

Sonia wondered what he was talking about, but when he mentioned prison, she knew he was talking about Jessica.

"Yes. She slandered the nation. It's a crime, and she has to serve time." Sonia nodded. Jessica's slanders against her was a crime as well, but the consequences weren't severe. She would be detained for some time at most, but since she had insulted the nation, she had taken it to a whole other level. At the very least, she would be locked up for months.

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Chapter 734 Julia Acts Weird

Sonia guessed that Jessica would be jailed anywhere from three to six months.

Once Sonia gave him the confirmation, Tim nodded. "I see."

"Why did you bring this up anyway?" Sonia was curious.

Tim adjusted his glasses. "You want that woman to bear a child so the Reeds' bloodline won't die, right? If that's the case, she can't stop taking her medications, or she'll have to restart her treatment after she's released. You'll have to spend more time waiting then."

Sonia nodded. "I see. Thanks for the reminder. I'll tell the police officers about that."

"Don't forget about it." Tim grunted, then he continued, "And come to the hospital for a followup checkup. You should have almost finished the meds I gave you last time, right?"

Sonia smiled. "I still have enough for one day."

"Knew it." He spun the scalpel in his hand. "Come over later if you're not busy."

"Sure. I'm not busy this afternoon. How about 3PM?" Sonia looked at the time on her PC.

Tim looked at the time as well. "Just come to the OBGYN department straight away. I'll be waiting for you."

"Sure," Sonia answered.

They made some small talk and ended the call. She still had an hour and a half before three. Lots of time. I can take it slow. She put her phone down and went back to work. When it was two thirty, she picked her handbag up and left the company.

It was three when she came to the hospital. After she parked her car and sent Tim a text, she went into the hospital and headed to the elevator, then she pressed the floor she was going to.

The doors slowly closed, but just before they fully shut themselves, she heard someone say quickly, "Wait up!"

It was a familiar voice, but since the elevator door had blocked out most of the voice, she couldn't remember who it was, so she instinctively pressed the open button to stop the elevator door from closing. Once the doors slid open, the person came in quickly. She was holding a thermos and leaned against elevator walls as she huffed and puffed. Obviously, she had come to the elevator running.

When Sonia saw who it was, she was surprised, but then she frowned. No wonder she sounds so familiar. It's her. Are enemies always bound to cross paths? She crossed her arms and moved to the side silently, putting some distance between her and the person who came in. Why did I even wait for her? Now I have to stay in the same elevator with this woman. This is awkward.

Julia didn't know who the person was. After she caught her breath, she combed through her hair and stood up, then smiled at Sonia. "Thank you."

Sonia arched her eyebrow in surprise. Whoa. Unbelievable. A Gray, being so polite? She chuckled sardonically. "Mrs. Gray, you should turn around and see who I am. Once you know who I am, you'd probably regret thanking me."

That voice... Julia swiveled around, and she was shocked when she saw Sonia. "It's you!"

Sonia beamed at her. "Good afternoon, Mrs. Gray."

Julia's face fell. "Why are you here?" She never thought it would be Sonia in the elevator. If she did, she wouldn't have come in. However, she was surprised that Sonia didn't leave right away after seeing her and even held the elevator doors open for her.

Julia looked at Sonia. She had mixed feelings about the encounter, and she was confused. Why did Sonia do this? We're enemies, right? If I were her, I wouldn't have waited for my enemy. I'd have left right away.

Sonia didn't know what she was thinking. She looked at the elevator screen and smiled. "We're in a hospital, not your house. If you can come here, why can't I?"

"Why you..." Julia couldn't argue with that. She snorted and turned the other way. If it was any other time, she would be angry after Sonia talked to her like that, but for some reason, she wasn't angered at all. In fact, she felt worried.

Julia turned around and asked Sonia, "Are you sick?"

Sonia froze up when she heard that, and even Julia was shocked that she asked the question. W-What am I doing? She covered her mouth, her eyes filled with perplexion. Why did I ask her that? Am I mad?

Julia quickly shook her head and waved her hands. "D-Don't take it the wrong way," she explained nervously. "I'm not concerned about you. I'm just... just..." She couldn't come up with an excuse, and her face was getting red.

Sonia knew Julia was trying to hide her concern. Her gaze turned dark, and she pursed her lips. I'm getting mixed feelings about this.

Indeed, Julia was trying to hide her true feelings. She didn't want to admit that she was concerned about Sonia. Sonia could see that Julia was genuinely asking her if she was sick. She didn't know what was wrong with Julia and why she was suddenly concerned about Sonia, but the moment Julia asked her that question, Sonia felt sad for some reason. It almost made her cry.

However, she held it down. Sonia clenched her fists and tried to be as calm as possible. "I know you were just kidding. Don't worry, I didn't take it the wrong way," she said calmly.

Sonia was always a fair person. She'd repay kindness with kindness. Anyone who treated her well would receive a kind gesture in return. She might be enemies with the Grays, but since Julia was concerned about her, she wouldn't make things awkward for the lady and expose her.

Julia's eyes lit up, and she nodded. "Yeah. I was just kidding. I don't really care about you. That's impossible."

"I know," Sonia answered.

Julia didn't know what to say after how readily Sonia answered that, and an awkward silence fell between them. Both of them didn't say anything more, and there was only the sound of breathing.

Sonia glanced subtly at Julia, who was staring at the ground and looking pensive. It was her first time where she didn't argue while being in the same room with her enemy. And she was concerned about me as well. This is... a really weird experience.

Sonia wasn't the only one feeling weird; Julia had the same experience as well. She was regretting what she said earlier, and she knew why she did that. Must be because of the press conference. I can't do that again, she told herself. She's not Rina. Rina has already come back, and she's with us now. I must get rid of all these thoughts, otherwise I'll hurt Rina.

I have to deal with Sonia as I usually would the next time I see her. I can't do something stupid like that again. That line of thinking calmed Julia down a lot.

Sonia arrived at her floor a moment later, and the elevator came to a halt. The moment the doors swung open, she went out without saying goodbye to Julia. She only thought of that incident earlier as an accident. I can't forget the fact that she's my enemy just because she's concerned about me for once.

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Chapter 735 Let's Get a Child

Since Julia was her enemy, there was no need to even be polite with her.

Sonia could think that way easily, but not Julia. As Sonia went away without even saying anything, Julia's face fell, and she felt sad for some reason. "She didn't even say goodbye before she left. What a... rude woman!" Julia held the thermos' handle tightly as she grumbled.

She wanted to say something more insulting, but in the end, she couldn't do it, so she changed her mind. Julia saw Sonia off, but she didn't even look away after Sonia was gone. She only stared down at the ground after the elevator's doors slid shut.

She could have closed the doors the moment Sonia went out, but she didn't. She thought Sonia was really beautiful, and she wanted to get closer to her. Only God knew how much she had to hold back to stop herself from calling out to Sonia.

Julia loosened her grip on the thermos, but the marks of her nails that dug into her palm wouldn't disappear so soon. Julia sighed. That press release really messed with my head. I actually almost thought Sonia was Rina. This is not good. She rubbed her cheeks and tried to sober herself up. Stop thinking about that. Stop it.

At the same time, Sonia was approaching the OBGYN department, and she heaved a sigh of relief. It was a short journey from the elevator, but she felt a heavy weight on her shoulders. Even though she didn't look back, she could still feel Julia's intense gaze on her, and it was almost palpable. That feeling only disappeared after she went out of Julia's sight.

She didn't know why Julia was staring at her that way. If it weren't because she didn't feel any malice in her gaze, she would have shot Julia a glare instead of leaving right away. What is wrong with her today? That was one heck of a weird experience. Sonia shivered at this thought.

Tim had been waiting for her a long time, and when he came out to see if Sonia was there, he saw her shivering uncontrollably. He went up to her and touched her forehead. "Stop moving. You might be down with the flu."

Amused, Sonia pulled his hand away. "No. I just thought of something disgusting, that's why."

Since she wasn't feeling hot, Tim put his hand back into his coat's pocket. "Is that so? Well, come in then." He wasn't interested in what she was thinking. He was only interested in three things in his life: Sonia's safety, complex diseases, and corpses. Everything else was a waste of time for him.

Since Tim wasn't asking, Sonia didn't tell him what happened either. She grunted and followed him into the department.

The checkup took an hour, then Tim came back out with her results. He looked at it and told her, "Not bad. Your body's regenerative factor is great, and you did everything the doctor told you to do. Your womb is healing faster than I expected. Keep this up, and you can bear Toby's child in less than two years." He uncapped his pen and started scribbling on the result paper.

Sonia was sitting right in front of him, and her face turned pink. "What are you talking about? What do you mean 'bear Toby's child'?"

Tim stopped writing and looked at her. "I mean what I said. You guys are dating, aren't you?"

"Yes." She nodded.

Tim spun his pen around. "Then that's it. Since you guys are dating, you'll bear his child sooner or later, right?"

Sonia covered her face. "Later. Much, much later."

"Still doesn't change the fact that he's going to knock you up." Tim reclined against his chair. "Rose was discharged yesterday."

"I know."

"Do you know how much time she has left?" Tim looked her in the eye.

Sonia had a sad look on her face. "Two years. Toby told me that. But he wants to send her to a nursing home. He thinks that can keep her alive longer."

"Yes, that can keep her alive for a longer period of time, but..." Tim raised a single finger and told her seriously, "Only by one year, at best. I guarantee that."

The news shocked Sonia, and her heart skipped a beat. "One year?"

"Nursing homes are where people can rest, but they aren't hospitals. Rose is aging naturally, and her organs are going to fail sooner or later. Not even hospitals can save her, let alone nursing homes. The best they can do is drag out her feeble existence."

"Hey, you can't say that." Sonia frowned in displeasure. "What do you mean 'drag out her feeble existence'?"

Tim adjusted his glasses and smiled. "Pardon my rude answer. Rose is already blessed enough if she can live for one year longer than expected."

Sonia pursed her lips and said nothing. So Grandma only has three years left to live even if she's sent to a nursing home. Three years... "Can't you do anything about it?" Sonia held his arm and gave him a look of plea. She hoped he could come up with something, since she didn't want Rose to pass away so soon.

Tim pulled her hand away from his arm. "Sorry, but I am no god. I can't save her from death."

The light in Sonia's eyes dimmed.

Tim looked at her. "Rose doesn't really want to keep on living."

"What?" Sonia blinked in confusion. "What do you mean?"

"When I went to check up on her a few days ago, I overheard her conversation with Toby. He wanted to send her to a nursing home after she's discharged, but she refused."

She knows he wants her to live a longer life, but she doesn't want it. According to her, she only held on for so long so she could see Toby get married and have his own kids. She did it for her late husband, but after she knew how much time she has left, she gave up. She said she'll just go with the flow."

"Why?" She clenched her fists.

Tim answered, "She said she misses her husband. It has been far too long since they were separated by the veil of death. She wants to see him soon."

Sonia couldn't say anything to that. They had no right to stop their grandmother if she wanted to see her husband. Her life was coming to an end, so they couldn't stop it anyway. Even if they prolonged her life, Rose would not be happy either. She would only ask them why they were stopping her from seeing her own husband.

When Tim saw her looking so shocked, he knew what she was thinking. He stopped spinning his pen and continued scribbling on the results. "Rose doesn't think she can live long enough to see you and Toby get married and have kids, but I think you guys can make it in time. At least when she crosses to the other side, she can tell her husband that their grandson finally has his own family. Three years is enough."

Sonia said, "You can't be too sure about that. It's not like I can get a kid whenever I want to. Some people have been trying for years, but they can't even get one."

"Yes, but you aren't in that group." Tim's glasses glinted under the lights.

Sonia tilted her head to the side. "Why?"

"Because you can get pregnant easily. That's why he knocked you up after you guys only had sex one time." Tim closed the file after he finished writing the notes in there.

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Chapter 736 Rina Pokes Around

Sonia was caught by surprise. She kept quiet for a while, then she asked shakily, "I thought it's all luck."

"Some part of it is, but a big part of it depends on the kind of body you have." Tim capped his pen.

Sonia looked down and touched her belly. Wow, so I can get pregnant easily? I thought that's a myth.

Tim noticed Sonia was looking crestfallen, and he leaned against his chair. "What is it? Aren't you happy? A lot of women wish they could get pregnant easily."

Sonia forced a smile even though she felt down. "No. I can't really accept this for now." I get pregnant easily. That makes me sound like a baby-making machine. Of course I'm not happy.

"Why not? I thought you loved Rose. You should be happy if she can see her great grandkid before she passes away. Do you want her to leave with her final wish unfulfilled?" Tim adjusted his glasses.

Sonia pursed her lips, but she said nothing. No, I don't want to. Dang, now I really have to have a child with Toby in three years. She massaged her temples. "Let's not get ahead of ourselves. Just give me the prescription."

"Done." Tim pointed at the prescription he just wrote.

Sonia looked at it. What is this? Some scribble? I can't read this. She picked the prescription up and stood up. "I'll get my meds from the pharmacy."

"Okay." Time nodded. "Go, but I do have to remind you that even though you can't get pregnant for now, please take some precaution. There's always an exception to the rule."

Sonia's face was red, and she felt awkward. "We aren't that far in the relationship yet. You're really getting ahead of yourself."

"You guys are adults now. It'll happen sooner or later." Tim smiled mysteriously.

Sonia took a deep breath. "You really love to joke around, don't you? I'm leaving now."

She left the office and went to the pharmacy. When she was about to leave the hospital after she took her meds, she bumped into another familiar figure. When she saw who it was, Sonia frowned. This is not my day. I ran into Julia when I came, and now I'm running into her daughter. I just have to bump into them no matter where I go, don't I?

Rina was holding an expensive handbag and came over haughtily. "Hello, Miss Reed."

Rina was wearing branded items from head to toe, and Sonia frowned when she realized that. For some reason, she felt angry about it. If she's here, then that means Titus is in the hospital too. I guess it's normal for someone with that condition to get hospitalized frequently. That was why she wasn't surprised when she saw Julia earlier. But their daughter dresses up like she's going on a date even when Titus is in trouble. I feel sad for them. Sonia nodded at her. "Miss Gray," she answered coolly.

Rina stopped before her. "You seem angry, Miss Reed. Did I do something wrong? But I just got here. I don't think I've done anything to cross you, right?"

"No. It's my own problem," Sonia answered, her voice as cool as ever.

Rina looked at the meds that were contained in the bag Sonia was holding, and she looked surprised. "Wow, that's a lot of meds. Are you down with something, Miss Reed?"

She pulled her bag of meds up. "That is none of your business. Why are you stopping me, Miss Gray? Say what you have to say, or I'm leaving now. I have something I need to do," she answered impatiently.

Rina knew that Sonia didn't want to answer her question, and she was displeased, but she hid that quickly. She flicked her hair back and smiled. "It's nothing. I just came to say hi because I saw you. Oh, and I watched the press release too."

"And?" Sonia looked at Rina coldly.

A hint of anger welled up within Rina's eyes. "My father thinks you're Rina. Or at least, he thought you were Rina." She stared at Sonia's face, trying to see what kind of response Sonia would show.

She thought Sonia would be surprised or amused, but on the contrary, Sonia was calm. In fact, she didn't even show any response at all. "And? Should I be happy about it?"

"Oh, no." Rina forced a smile through all her anger and annoyance. I thought she didn't know about Dad's suspicions. I see, so Mr. Fuller has told her about it. That's why she isn't even surprised about it. "Miss Reed, do you have anything to say about that?" Rina calmed herself down and looked at Sonia.

A frown furrowed Sonia's brows. She answered with a question, "What do you want me to say?"

Rina looked away, and she had a weird look on her face. "Have you ever thought that you might actually be the real Rina?"

"The heck?" Sonia looked at her as if she just said the most bizarre thing in the world.

Rina ignored the look Sonia gave her, and she stared at the ground. "You aren't the Reeds' real daughter. Your parents adopted you, and they did it when you were practically a baby. Not to mention you showed up on the third day after Rina was stolen. It is very possible that you are the real Rina, Miss Reed."

"Enough!" Sonia's face fell. "What are you trying to say?"

Rina clenched her fists. She didn't want to dangle the answer around anymore, so she asked, "Miss Reed, don't you think you're the real Rina?" She knew Sonia would get suspicious if she said that, but it must be done. She had to see if Sonia was suspecting her own identity. If she was, Rina could stop Sonia from finding out about the truth before it was too late.

"Why should I think I'm Rina?" Sonia looked at Rina coldly, and her voice was filled with contempt. "You are Rina. You did that DNA test with Titus, and you proved your own identity. I won't think that I'm the real Rina, unless I'm mad."

Rina finally could rest easy after she got Sonia's answer, and she smiled. Good. She doesn't suspect a thing. That DNA test helped me out big time.

Just when Rina was heaving a sigh of relief, Sonia suddenly went up and looked down at her, then squinted. "Miss Gray, why did you keep on asking me the same question anyway? Are you trying to tell me something?"

Shocked, Rina took a few steps back and put some distance between them. She then turned her head away so she wouldn't lock gazes with Sonia. She clenched her fists and tried her best to stay calm. "No, Miss Reed. I wasn't trying to tell you anything. I only asked you the same question because I'm jealous."

"Jealous?" Sonia crossed her arms. "Jealous of what?"

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Chapter 737 Second-Hand Embarrassment

Rina came up with an excuse and looked at Sonia with envy in her eyes. "You said that I'm the real Rina because I did the DNA test, right? But my own father thinks you're the real me just because he watched your press release. Of course I'm angry about that."

"I see." Sonia arched her eyebrow, and she smiled disdainfully. "But you're barking up the wrong tree here, don't you think?"

Rina snorted. "Who knows? You might impersonate me if you know about my father's suspicions."

"And why would I do that?" Sonia frowned. Is she stupid or what?

Rina bit her lip. "To bait my parents and take revenge on them."

“You must think I’m stupid.” Sonia rolled her eyes. “Do you think identity theft is easy to pull off? Even if I can pull it off, I can’t do it forever. Sooner or later, I’ll be exposed. You might love to be Rina, but I don’t.”

Even though Sonia said she wouldn’t do it, Rina wasn’t happy at all. Instead, she was overwhelmed by fear. She’s right. I can’t keep this up for life. Someday, I’ll be exposed. She doesn’t know who she is for now, but she will someday, and I’ll be finished when that happens. Naturally, she feared that.

When Sonia saw her suddenly turning pale and horrified as if she had seen a ghost, she couldn’t help but wonder.

What? I didn’t say anything surprising, so why the shock? Sonia tilted her head to the side, but she didn’t think much about it, and then she left. She’s paranoid. Me, trying to impersonate her? How laughable. Only a madman would come up with that kind of idea.

It was already five when she came back to the company, so she cleared her table up and got ready to go home. When she was about to come out of her office, her phone rang, and she took it out. When she noticed that the caller was Toby, she smiled with delight and took the call. “Hello?” Sonia had truly fallen in love with him again, for she could get happy just from him calling her.

A gentle smile curled Toby’s lips. “Are you done with work?” he asked.

“Yeah. I’m just about to go home.” Sonia headed to the elevator.

“Great. I’m waiting for you at the parking lot. Just come over.” Toby rolled his window down.

Sonia stopped for a moment, for she was even more delighted. “What? The parking lot? Here? At my company?”

“Where else?” He chuckled.

His voice was sexy, and it sent an electric current up Sonia’s head. She tensed up, and her throat felt dry from all her lust burning within her. “Coming right over.” She hung up and hurried toward the elevator.

Toby looked at the phone. He wondered why she hung up, then he chuckled and put his phone down.

When Tom heard him laughing, he turned around. “What did Miss Reed say, sir? You seem happy.”

Toby looked at the car park’s elevator through the car window, and he answered calmly, “Nothing. She hung up.”

The corner of Tom's lips twitched, but he said nothing. She hung up? You're happy because she hung up? Are you mad or stupid? He looked at Toby, who was waiting for Sonia to arrive, and he shook his head. I don't get men who are in love.

Sonia didn't let Toby wait for long. She appeared a short while later.

Once she came out of the elevator, Toby stepped out of the car and stood beside it.

Sonia was wondering where he was parked, but the moment she turned around, she saw him standing right there. He was tall, beautiful, and shining. He stood out wherever he was, so she didn't have to look too hard to find him. She waved at him and held her handbag tighter as she trotted over to him.

As Sonia came closer, Toby opened his arms. When she stood before him, she stopped for a while, then she opened her arms while smiling and went into his embrace as they hugged.

Tom looked at them, then he clicked his tongue and closed his eyes. I'm not looking. I'm not looking. Ooh, I'm so jealous.

They hugged for a while before Sonia stepped back reluctantly. Toby took his scarf off and wrapped it around Sonia's neck. She wanted to take it off and say she didn't need it, but he stopped her. "Wear it," he said imperiously. "Your hands are freezing. You'll feel better if you wear this."

Sonia couldn't win against his obstinance, so she wore the scarf, then she smiled at him. "I made you this scarf, but I seem to wear it more than you do. I wonder if I made this for you or for me."

"I might not always wear it, but I take it with me everywhere I go." Toby straightened the scarf out.

He wasn't lying. He took it with him at all times, and some of his employees even said he was too broke to afford two scarves. Hmph. I'm not telling them that no scarf can compare to the one I have. "Let's get in the car. It's warmer inside." He focused on Sonia and held her hand, then they got in the car.

Sonia followed him quietly. When she came into the car, she realized that it was Tom who was driving, not Toby. She said hi with a smile, and Tom turned around to smile at her.

Toby closed the door and told Tom, "Drive."

"Yes, sir." Tom revved the engine up.

Sonia put her handbag aside and looked at Toby. "How long have you guys been here?"

"Not too long. We just came when I called you." Toby crossed his legs elegantly.

Sonia blinked at him. "You came just in time then."

Toby chuckled. "It's no coincidence. I know you. I heard you went out earlier in the afternoon?"

"How did you know?" Sonia was surprised, then she looked at him suspiciously. "Did you plant spies in my company again?"

"No." Toby shook his head.

Sonia didn't believe him. "Impossible. How did you know I went out then? You must have planted spies in there again." Darn. I told him to take all his guys back and only leave the finance department's head for me. But now he has more guys in my company again?

"I really didn't," Toby defended himself again.

Sonia still didn't believe him. Just when she was about to say something, Tom looked in the rear-view mirror and said, "You got it wrong this time, Miss Reed. Mr. Fuller didn't send any spies over. He knows because Daphne told him. He called her earlier."

Sonia paused for a moment and looked at Toby. "You called Daphne?"

Toby nodded. "Yes."

"Why did you call her? You could have called me if you wanted to talk to me," Sonia asked curiously.

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Chapter 738 Origin

"I did, but your phone was turned off." He looked at her handbag, and there was a hidden bitterness in his gaze. I called you, but your phone was turned off. Of course I feel wronged.

Sonia knew what he was thinking, and the corner of her left eye twitched. "Sorry. My phone was dead back then. I only recharged it after I got back to my car."

Toby chuckled, but he said nothing.

Sonia looked at him, then she tugged on his arm. "Are you angry?"

"No." Toby turned his head away.

Sonia held her forehead. No? The word 'angry' is written on your face. Geez, you don't have to get annoyed just because my phone was dead and I missed your call. You're really becoming more and more of a child. She was thinking all that in her mind, but Sonia hugged his arm and apologized anyway. "Alright, it's my fault. I should have charged it before I left home. I won't do it again, alright?"

Toby turned around, but he still looked slightly miffed for whatever reason it was. "Fine."

Tom almost screamed. What is up with that? Did he just go 'Fine, I'll forgive you because you asked me to?' That's what the lady should say. You're the man here, but Miss Reed has to be the one to cheer you up? Are you sure you should be doing that? Tom shivered, but it was not from the cold.

Sonia was amused by his reaction, and she shook her head. "Alright, stop acting like a child, you." She nudged him with her elbow.

Toby held her arm and pulled her into his embrace. She gasped in surprise and fell back down, then he held her by her waist and stopped her from breaking free. "Just like that. Don't move."

Sonia wanted to sit back up, but he asked her to stay still. She knew he wanted to hug her, so she played along. Sonia leaned against his chest and stopped moving, much to Toby's delight.

Tom looked away calmly and pressed a button, then a divider slowly appeared between the front and backseat. Toby looked at it, and he seemed satisfied with it. Good. You're a smart man, Tom.

Sonia didn't know what Toby was thinking. She leaned against his chest and fiddled with the diamond button on his suit. "Why were you looking for me in the afternoon anyway?"

"Nothing. I was just missing you and wanted to hear your voice," Toby looked at her and muttered.

Sonia paused for a moment and blushed, then she looked up at him. However, she couldn't see his face from where she was sitting. All she could see was his jaw and sexy Adam's apple. It was bobbing up and down as he breathed, and she wanted to touch it.

She had never touched a man's Adam's apple before. I wonder what it feels like. Is it soft, or is it hard?

Since Sonia was suddenly being quiet, Toby let her go and looked at her. "What is it?"

"It's nothing." She snapped out of it and shook her head. "I was just thinking, we were only apart for a couple of hours, and you say you're already missing me. Is that a lie?"

"Do you think I'll lie to you?" Toby raised her chin.

Sonia looked into his eyes. Most people in the West would have brownish-black eyes, but Toby's eyes were fully obsidian. They were beautiful, but terrifyingly so. They looked like black holes, and if someone were to stare at them, they would be sucked in. That was why few people would look Toby in the eye, for they were scared. Sonia wasn't scared, however. She thought his eyes were pretty, and she raised her hand to touch them.

Toby was surprised, and he started to blink. His eyelashes brushed against her palm, and it felt ticklish. She laughed, and he held her hand, then he nibbled on it. "Why are you laughing?" he asked hoarsely.

"It's nothing. Your eyelashes tickled me, and I realized that they're really long." She looked at his eyelashes enviously. She couldn't believe that a man could have eyelashes that long and lustrous. He makes me feel ashamed because my eyelashes aren't even that pretty as a woman.

Toby noticed the envy in her eyes, though it disappeared a moment later. It didn't escape him, however. He chuckled. "Do you like them?"

"Yeah, of course. They're beautiful." She nodded.

Toby's smile broadened. "If you like them, you can touch them whenever you want. I shall allow it."

Sonia snorted. "You're making it sound like a generous offer, but now that I have a closer look, your features look more oriental than Western." She suddenly held his face and looked closely. Wow, it's real. People in the West have softer faces and tend to be oval-shaped, but Toby's face doesn't look soft. It looks sharp. She didn't notice it since she never looked closely, so it surprised her.

Sonia's surprise made Toby chuckle again. "You're right. I have some oriental ancestors in my family tree."

"Huh?" Sonia gasped. "Really?"

“Yes.” Toby nodded. “My mother’s grandfather was an oriental who came to the West more than a century ago, and he married my mother’s grandmother. They then had a son, which was my grandfather. His last name was He, but he took on a Western surname—Herrias.”

Realization struck Sonia. “I see. Your mother’s side of the family is complex.”

Toby chuckled. “Well, my mom’s family tree is really big, so it tends to get complex.”

“I’ve never heard you talking about your mother’s father before. Hey, come to think of it, I’ve never heard of any Herrais family in the nation.” She tilted her head to the side and thought about it. “Yep. I’ve never heard of them.”

Toby hugged her tightly. “I did. I just never brought that last name up.”

“What are you talking about?”

“You want to hear about it?” Toby asked a question instead.

She nodded. “Of course. That’s why I asked these questions.”

“Since you want to hear it, then I shall tell you.” He smiled.

“Tell me, tell me,” she urged while shaking his arm.

Toby patted the back of her hand and told her to calm down, then he said, “I’ve said that my mother’s grandfather was an oriental, and his last name was Herrias, right? My grandfather used that last name instead of He.”

“Okay,” Sonia said.

Toby continued, “After my great grandfather came to the West and married my great grandmother, he never went back. Their child inherited my great grandfather’s name, but actually, my great grandfather was a live-in son-in-law. My great grandmother’s last name was Sandstone.”

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Chapter 739 Cousin

“Sandstone?” Sonia blinked and looked at Toby. “Oh, I get it. You said that the Herrais family exists, but they don’t use that name. So your mother comes from the Sandstones, right?”

“Smart,” Toby praised.

Sonia looked embarrassed. “You’ve made it obvious, so if I can’t even guess that, I’m… That’s not important.” She waved her hand. “But there are a lot of families in the nation with the same last name. Which family did your grandfather come from?”

“The one in Westsashire,” Toby answered.

“Westsashire…” Sonia thought about it, then her eyes widened as realization struck her. “The one who’s friends with the Salzburgs?”

“Yes.” Toby nodded.

That was why his mother used to date Connor.

“I see. So the Sandstone Family is your mother’s family, huh?”

“Yes. Even though they’re the Sandstones, the lynchpin is actually a Herrias, so the guys in Westsashire call them the Herrias Family,” Toby explained.

Sonia nodded. “I see. Since they’re in Westsashire, I didn’t know the Sandstone Family was the Herrias Family, but I’ve heard rumors about your company being at odds with Sandstone Group. Is that true?”

“That is true,” he told her honestly, and he squinted.

The news shocked Sonia. “Wow, that’s real? I thought that’s your mother’s family. So why are they at odds with the Fullers?”

“Because the one in charge isn’t my grandfather.” He patted her head gently, but there was only an icy chill in his eyes.

Sonia could see that he was in a bad mood.

“My great grandfather had two sons. His eldest son was my grandfather. He inherited the family business, but he only sired one daughter, that was my mother. After they passed away, I was supposed to take over, but halfway through the succession, my grandfather’s brother showed up and took away the rest,” Toby said coldly. “My grandfather just passed away back then. I wanted him to rest in peace and keep things under control, so I didn’t fight them. I let them take the inheritance away.”

“Aren’t you mad about that?” Sonia looked at him.

Toby chuckled. “No. What they took was just something that’ll be obsolete in the near future. It just looked valuable back then. I think you’ve heard about their financials being in hot soup now, right?”

“Of course.” Sonia adjusted her position. “I read finance news a lot. Last week, I saw an analysis on their company’s situation. The news said they’re working on a sunset industry, and they’ll be booted out of the business world if they don’t change soon. I actually thought it was sad that an old company was going to be bankrupt. I thought they should go with the flow instead of stubbornly insisting on the old ways. Now that I know they’re actually robbers, I don’t feel sorry anymore.”

She could see that Toby hated the Sandstones, so she wasn’t afraid he would be upset if she said that. And as expected, Toby wasn’t upset at all. In fact, he smiled.

“You’re right. There’s no point pitying them now. They thought they got something good, but it’s really something I don’t care about. Even if they didn’t take it, I would have given them half of the inheritance and worked with them too. Before he died, my grandfather said he owed his brother a lot, so I would have given them half of the inheritance anyway, but...” Toby squinted.

Sonia looked at him sadly. “But they let you down.”

Toby massaged his forehead. “They did. Their company started to rot years and years ago. They came to me four years ago, asking me to help them, but I refused. That’s how I am. I would help them if I was the one who gave them the business, but since they took it forcefully from me, what happens to them has nothing to do with me. That’s why I didn’t help. They started a smear campaign against us after they went back. That’s why you heard the rumors about us being at odds.”

“I see.” Sonia smiled. “I get it, but they can do what they want. It’s not like they’re your grandfather’s descendants anyway.”

“Yeah. I never really cared about what they were up to.” Toby smiled. “But I’m actually friends with their second family.”

Sonia stretched her arms. “Second family?”

“Yes. He’s the brother of the current head of the Sandstone Family—my uncle. He knows he’s not in line for the inheritance, so he didn’t work with his brother back then. He protected my mother when they were kids, so the bond is still there. That’s the only bond I have with the Sandstones.” Toby straightened out her clothes which had gotten messy after she stretched her arms.

Sonia curled up in his embrace. “I see.”

“You’ve seen his daughter before. She’s my cousin.” Toby suddenly remembered something, and he looked at her.

Sonia looked at him curiously. “Cousin? I don’t remember seeing her before.”

“The one who danced with me back at the ball,” Toby answered.

Sonia thought about it for a few moments, then she sat up. “Oh, so she’s your cousin?” Back then, she went to the ball with Zane while Toby went with another woman. That woman wasn’t exactly gorgeous, but she was tall, and her air was regal. Sonia thought she was a model. Toby had chatted and drank with her, and he had even danced with her. Sonia had thought the woman was a rich lady who caught his eyes. So she’s his cousin? Oh, darn. Sonia blushed as she felt awkward about her misunderstanding.

Toby arched his eyebrow curiously when he saw her blushing. “Why are you blushing?”

“Well, I misunderstood your cousin.” She stared down sheepishly.

Toby squinted. “Is that so? What kind of misunderstanding was it?”

“Stop asking. It’s embarrassing!” She covered her face.

Huh? Oh, I see. I get it now. Toby started chuckling.

His laugh only made her feel more embarrassed. “Stop laughing!” She glared at him. I know I thought she was his new love-interest, but it’s only natural. He was so close with her. He started the whole thing, and now he’s laughing?

Toby knew she was feeling awkward, so he stopped laughing and cleared his throat. “Alright, alright. Put your hand down. Stop covering your face. Can you even breathe through that?”

Sonia didn’t move, so Toby, left with no choice, did it himself. He pulled her hand away, but she was still blushing, and he pinched her cheek.

“What are you doing?” She quickly retreated.

Toby smirked. “Nothing. I just think you’re looking a bit too hot, so I’m cooling you down.”

“I’m fine.” Sonia fidgeted.

Toby knew she got embarrassed easily, so he stopped teasing her. He changed the topic and asked, “Where did you go this afternoon anyway?”

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Chapter 740 Respect for Her

"The hospital," Sonia adjusted her position as she answered him truthfully.

Toby tensed up right away. He held her hand and looked at her closely. "The hospital? Why? Are you feeling unwell?" He sounded worried.

"No." Sonia felt touched that Toby was so worried about her, and she smiled. "Dr. Lancaster said it was time for my followup, and he gave me a new prescription."

"I see." Toby heaved a sigh of relief, and he could rest easy after knowing that she was fine. Then he asked, "Did he say anything about your condition?"

"He did." She nodded.

"What is it? How's your recovery going?" Toby looked at her with great concern.

She met his gaze, then she remembered what Tim told her, and she started to blush once more.

Toby was surprised that she was starting to blush instead of answering his question, and he arched his eyebrow. "What is it? Is it something you can't say?"

She stared down, and her voice was barely a whisper. "Ahem. Not really."

But that only piqued Toby's interest. "What did he say? Tell me."

"Must I really?" She pushed a lock of her hair back. Sonia was reluctant to talk.

When he saw her ears turning red, he could guess that Tim must have said something really private. He was curious about it, so he nodded. "Yes. You said it's nothing big, so it's no big deal if you tell me, right?"

Sonia shut up for a moment. A while later, she finally arrived at a decision, and she looked at him. "Fine. It's nothing big anyway. You'll ask him even if I don't tell you, so let's just cut out the middleman."

Toby smiled, since Sonia was right. If she wouldn't tell him, he would ask Tim, and he would know what she was hiding in the end. It would be better if she told him right away. "Tell me then." He nodded, telling her to talk.

She took a deep breath and told him the gist of what Tim said to her.

Toby wasn't embarrassed at all. Instead, he nodded seriously. "I see. I'll do as he says then."

Embarrassed, Sonia buried her head in his embrace and refused to get up.

Her embarrassment made Toby chuckle. "You're already shy now? What will you do when we get to fourth base then?"

"We'll talk about that when the time comes," she said softly. She knew sex would happen sooner or later after she dated him, so she didn't say she wouldn't do it. She just needed time.

The light in Toby's eyes dimmed, and he huddled closer to whisper to her, "And the time will come soon enough. I know your period's over." It's been so many days. She has to be done. If not, I'll have to send her to a hospital to get checked.

Sonia's eyes widened. "You've been counting the days, haven't you?" He counted my days? Oh my god.

Toby knew she was misunderstanding something, so he explained, "Yes, but not because I want to have sex. I just want to know about your cycle so I can take care of you the next time it comes."

Sonia rolled her eyes. "I believe you, but I know you're also counting the days to know when to have sex with me."

Well, she got me. Toby was embarrassed that Sonia exposed him right away even though he was usually shameless. He coughed awkwardly, and he laughed. "Fine, I admit it. Yes, but I won't force you. I said I would give you time to prepare."

He did want to get intimate with her and secure his spot as boyfriend in the relationship, but compared to that, he would rather respect her wishes first.

Sonia knew Toby was being genuine, and it calmed her pounding heart down. She blinked a few times, and she finally smiled. "Thank you. I'll do my best to fully accept you."

They did have sex once, but she had been drunk and drugged. It had happened out of nowhere, and she didn't even remember anything. She didn't know if she was embarrassed or not about it then, but now that she was sober, she knew that if she wasn't prepared, she wouldn't be able to do it with him.

Toby kissed her forehead. "Alright. I'll wait for you then, but can you raise your head? Don't you feel suffocated?"

"No." Sonia shook her head.

Since she wasn't getting up, Toby chuckled and stopped persuading her. As long as she's fine with it. And I really like her sticking to me. He placed his hand on her waist and hugged her tightly.

Sonia suddenly remembered something, and she said, "Oh. I saw Julia and Taylor at the hospital today."

Toby wasn't surprised. He played with her hair and asked lovingly, "And?" He knew Titus was hospitalized again, so he wasn't surprised she met them. He only wondered what their conversations were like.

"And it's weird." She finally got up and looked at him, then she frowned. "Something's wrong with them. They kept saying weird stuff to me, especially Julia. I met her first, and we were in the same elevator. She actually asked if I was sick. But weirdly enough, she wasn't being sarcastic. I could see that she was concerned about me. That was shocking."

Toby tightened his hug, and he finally got serious.

Sonia noticed that he was quiet and seemed to be spacing out, so she nudged him. "What are you spacing out for?"

Toby looked away. "Nothing. What did you say?"

"Nothing." She shook her head. "More precisely, before I could say anything, she realized that she must have sounded a bit mad, so she quickly said she wasn't concerned about me. That's why I didn't say anything. I got to my floor and went out, but she wouldn't stop seeing me off. I didn't look back, but I know that there was no malice in her gaze. For some reason, there was... love in her eyes. God, that gave me goosebumps. What's wrong with her? Why did she change her attitude toward me?"

"Maybe she still suspects you," Toby suddenly said.