

Her Billionaire Husband Chapter 396-400

Chapter 396 Goodbye, Demoness

Veronica could be herself around Larry. Even though it had been years since they last met, she still felt as close to him as ever.

“Why did you put on that makeup though? I wouldn’t have recognized you if it weren’t for your voice and that slip.” He knew she was a great makeup artist when they first met. It had been years since they saw each other though, so he never thought that the beautiful blonde would be her.

She lowered her head and stirred her coffee. Her eyes glinted, and she lied, “I might have gotten rusty. It’s been a while since I did any makeup, and I was bored, so...”

“Mia told me you’re her assistant. Is that true?” She was a smart woman back in their school days, and she had a lot of business ideas. He thought she would be a businesswoman when she grew up, but he never thought she would be the assistant of a no-name model. He thought it was a shame, but he could never tell her that, so he suggested, “Wanna work for me? My assistant is shit. We can’t get along. I wanna hire someone else.”

“As if!” She knew what he was getting at, so she said, “I mean, money doesn’t grow on trees, so I started working for a modeling agency. The boss wanted me to take care of Mia and see the world, so here I am.”

“I knew it. You already resold phones back in junior high. I knew you’d never settle for a model’s assistant’s job.”

The mention of her past made him shake his head, but he was smiling. He knew about her past thanks to Hendrey. She started wholesaling cheap phones in the no-name phone market and resold them to her classmates in her junior year. They could not pay her the full amount at one go, so she provided instalments and charged interest on it. She was ahead of her time back then.

“Oh, stop teasing me. Look at me. I have to work as a model’s assistant. Life is bad enough for me,” she mocked herself.

Just then, a waiter came in and handed them menus. They made their orders and kept chatting. In between, Mia would not stop calling her, so Veronica blocked her. It would be a disturbance otherwise.

“You’re successful both back home and overseas. Are you going to expand your career in Destor or work your way up Horrywoodo?” Veronica asked as she dug in her meal.

“Not sure. I’ll see where fate takes me. But I can help you if you want to try this industry out, Demoness.”

“Oh, you mean the entertainment industry?”

She frowned and imagined working in the entertainment industry. It was a little tempting, but... "Forget it. It takes skills to be an actor, and I'm just a civilian. I can't get into the industry that easily. I'd rather do my own stuff. It feels better that way." Her esports company was just getting on track, and she could not hand over her wedding planner company to Matthew. On top of that, she just started working for a modeling agency. She would have to terminate her contract with Sean if she decided to work as an actor, which meant that she would have to pay for damages. She did not want that.

"Yeah. It's better to do something you like. To a carefree life!"

They raised a toast to each other and downed their drinks.

She put her glass down, and Larry got up to refill it. Her phone rang, and this time, it was a familiar number. It was from Matthew. She did not write out his name in her contacts just to keep his identity a secret. "Sorry. I gotta take this call." She took her phone and walked out of the room. Veronica only took that call after closing the door. "It's late. You're still up?"

"I can't sleep. I miss you."

It was a familiar voice, though a bit too gentle. She thought it was sweet and mushy at the same time. "Um... Why don't you act like yourself? I can't get used to you being so mushy."

She was used to his aloof behavior, but he spoiled her and would only speak to her gently ever since they started dating. It felt jarring to her.

"You'll have to get used to it," he said, but this time, he sounded stiff.

"Yep. That's the Matthew I know." She wanted him to act this way. This was the man she knew.

He chuckled. "You dummy."

She chuckled as well.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"Me? Um... I'm having lunch with Mia," she lied. Larry was an award-winning actor, so she had to keep this a secret. Also, if Matthew found out she ran into Larry and had lunch with him, it would cause a misunderstanding. He was a jealous man, and his envy could cause disasters. If he really found out that she was having lunch with Larry, he might come to Castron and have so much sex with her, she would be bedridden for three days. I gotta lie to stay safe.

"When are you going back to the hotel?"

"Not sure. Just get some sleep. You don't have to wait for me. I'll call you in the morning."

It was really late in Destor, and she did not want her to stay up for him.

“Okay.”

“Good night. Bye.” She hung up.

Larry noticed her beaming when she came back. He teased, “Well, someone’s in love.”

Veronica stopped for a moment. Is it that obvious? “Not technically.” She was planning on telling him after they went public.

They sat around for a while after lunch, and Larry took her back to the hotel.

She got out of the car and was about to say goodbye, but he got out as well. He was a public figure, so Larry was wearing a mask and cap even though he was overseas. He went up to Veronica and said, “I have an ad shooting in the afternoon, Demoneess, so I can’t stay. I have to go to my next job after tomorrow’s show, so I might not have the time to say goodbye.”

“Wow, you’re busy.” She sighed. “It’s not easy being an award-winning actor, huh? You fly a lot.” She shrugged. “Well, good luck on the show tomorrow.” It would be a big show, and there would be a lot of crew members working backstage. It would not be easy to find him among the crowd. Besides, he was a famous actor. Going out of his way to say hi to her would look weird.

“I’m really sorry.” He sighed. “But now I have your number, so let’s meet the next time I’m home.”

“Sure.”

“Cool.” He opened his arms and arched his eyebrow. The guy wanted a goodbye hug.

She was clear that he had a busy schedule. They had no idea when they would see each other next, so she hugged him. “Do your best, Crazy. I hope I can see you on The Christmas Show next year.”

Chapter 397 Jealous Matthew

“What?” He pushed her away and glared at her. “What did you say?” “I said I’d like to see you next... I mean this year’s The Christmas S... Ow! What are you doing?” He flicked her forehead before she could finish. She covered her forehead and gasped in pain.

“I sang Dawn Breeze in last year’s The Christmas Show! The ninth performance! And you didn’t see me!”

“Huh? Oh um, sorry. I didn’t see you.” She laughed. Yeah, Matthew and his friends were standing right outside my door last Christmas. I was trying to deal with them, so of course I had no time for The Christmas Show.

At this moment, Larry’s phone rang. He took it out and sighed. “It’s from my manager. Great, she’s angry at me now. Goodbye.”

“Drive safely.” She waved him goodbye. Larry took the call. “Miss Quinton? Yeah, I’m on my way back. Right away.” He trotted back to his car and honked it to say goodbye, and he left.

She stood in the same spot, sighing. "Being an actor sure makes a lot of money, but man I feel sorry for him. He's busy as a bee." She went into the hotel lobby and made a beeline for the elevator. It was about one in the afternoon, and there were not a lot of people coming in. After she went into the elevator, a mysterious man in a windbreaker, cap, mask, and sunglasses came in.

The other guests left the elevator, and eventually, only the man was left with her. She looked at the elevator walls and glanced at the man's reflection cautiously. The elevator doors swung open, and she glanced outside before going out. As she walked down the corridor, she kept glancing backward. He was following her.

Her heart skipped a beat. Is this what Hendrey meant when he said I'd get tailed because I look like Tiffany? She leaned against the wall after she turned the corner, waiting for the mysterious man to show up. She kicked him in the face as he did, but he caught her ankle with his bare hands. "Who are you?" she asked nervously as she did a roundhouse kick, aiming at the man's chest.

The man expected that. He wanted to catch her feet, but that was a feint. She moved her leg downward and kicked his chest. She had used a lot of strength in this kick, and the man staggered backward.

Veronica did not stop. She stepped ahead and gave him a left hook, but he crouched down all of a sudden and wrapped his arm around her hip, then threw her over his shoulders and walked toward her suite. "Who are you? Who are you?" She got her guard up and kept resisting and struggling.

The man smacked her ass loudly, and she winced in pain, though she knew who he was right away. "You're Matthew, aren't you?" she asked and sniffed him. As expected, she caught a whiff of his familiarly special smell. Of course it was Matthew.

He unlocked the door and slammed it shut, then he carried her in and tossed her onto the bed. Matthew closed in, asking, "Who is he?" He took his mask off along with his sunglasses and tossed them. He looked at the woman coldly, the look on his face dark.

Her heart started to race, and she stared at him in shock. "Um... When did you get here?" Man, I'm stupid. I should have known he was here when he called me back at the restaurant. She naively thought he just wanted to have a little chat with her after she came back. She thought that the man could be him when she saw him in the elevator, but the fact that Matthew was still back in Destor debunked that thought. She expected it to be someone else, only to be surprised. It's still Matthew in the end.

"Answer my question." He raised her chin, his eyes narrowed and filled with anger. Veronica felt a chill run down her spine, and she was like a cat on hot bricks.

"H-He's..." She pursed her lips. "Larry."

Back in the basement last time, she told him that Larry was her first love, and he shrugged it off. However, after he fell in love with her, he realized that her first love was actually Hendrey. He had

looked into Larry and found out that he was the top actor at the moment. “I wonder if you’re lying this time.” She just keeps fooling around. I have no idea who she really likes. He asked, “Hendrey’s your first love, but you fell in love with Larry after that? Is that it?” He had been waiting in the lobby for her, and when he saw her hugging Larry, he felt a fire burning his heart away.

“Um...” Veronica thought he was being imaginative. She wrapped her arms around his neck and smiled. “You’re angry. Do you like me that much?”

He inched closer, his nose pressing against hers, and he bit her lip. “Answer my question.” He was acting so much like the first time they met—aloof, distant, and bossy.

She gulped. “It’s not what you think. Crazy and I are just friends.”

Crazy? Veronica thought it was an innocent nickname, but it was not the case for Matthew. He thought it sounded almost endearing. “Is he your ex?”

“No!” She frowned in displeasure. “You’re being too bossy, Matthew. So what if he’s my ex? So what if he’s not? You’re blowing things out of proportion.”

“I’m blowing things out of proportion?” His face fell, and he stared at her sharply.

“I said, you—” She was going to say something, but he stood up and left the room. She sat up at once, but all she could see was him leaving. “Matthew, you—”

He slammed the door shut and left before she could finish. Veronica sat on the bed and scratched her head in resignation, but then her phone rang. It was from Yvonne. “Yvonne? You’re awake too?” she asked.

Yvonne asked curiously, “Too? Who else is up? Is it Matthew?”

Chapter 398 It’s a Celebration

“I don’t want to talk about it. I made him so mad, he left.” She lay back down and stared at the ceiling in silence.

“What happened? What kind of shitty stuff did you do this time to make him so mad?” She wanted to gossip. For a moment, she forgot that she just went through a breakup.

Veronica sighed. “I... Well, he came to Castron so suddenly and called me. He wanted to know who I was having lunch with, so I lied and said it was Mia. My friend gave me a ride back and he saw us, so he got mad.”

“That’s all? Wow, he’s overreacting.”

“Um... Oh, we hugged too, and he flicked my forehead. That’s all. That’s all we did.”

“Hm, odd. Why is he so jealous of your friend? You’ve never been to Castron though, so why do you have friends there?” Yvonne noticed something off about it.

Veronica answered honestly, “It’s Larry Freeman.”

“Wait, the Larry Freeman? The superstar?”

“Yep.”

“Hawt damn. I never knew you have a friend like him. He’s a hot and talented man. Handsome, gentle, and he never gets into any scandal,” she said. Yvonne clicked her tongue. “No wonder Matthew got jealous. Larry never gets into any scandal, but he hugged you. Of course Matthew took it the wrong way.” Larry was one of the most innocent men in the industry and the only male star who had more male than female fans. The guy was humble, down to earth, and contributed a lot to charity. He seldom appeared in any movies, but every work he did was a box office hit.

“Um, is this my fault?” Veronica flicked her hair back and stopped to think. She then said, “There was this one time where I jokingly told him that Larry’s my first love, and I bullshitted a lot. Even told him we had sex too. He can’t have taken that seriously, right?” She did say that in the underground chamber before.

“You’re done for, Roni. You’re done for.” She sighed. “Cupid tried his best to match you up, but you managed to push him away for some reason. That’s... an achievement?”

“You’re exaggerating.” She thought that Matthew should not get angry over this. He did know that her first love was Hendrey, but then he also said she might have dated Larry after breaking up with Hendrey. Matthew had come all the way to Castron just to see her, but she had lied to him. I guess I did go a bit too far. “What should I do?”

“Apologize, duh. Call him. What are you waiting for?”

“I’ll call him then, I guess,” she said. Veronica was about to hang up, but she asked, “Oh yeah. Why did you call me in the first place anyway?”

“Nothing. I just found out that Zac captured Conrad.” Yvonne still loved Conrad in the end, especially since he was her baby’s father. She had no idea what to do.

“What? You’re keeping the child?”

“It’s already two months old, so I’m keeping it. Conrad’s a piece of scum, but the child is innocent.” She heaved a sigh.

Veronica could see that she was wondering if she should keep the child. It had been two days. She would have aborted it by now if she really didn’t want to keep the child. “I won’t tell you what to do, but

you should know what you're in for if you're carrying it to term. Think about your parents. Zac might not accept it either. Think about it, even if you're not marrying him."

Veronica stopped at that point, and Yvonne fell into silence. Veronica then said, "I'll call you later. I need to call Matthew now." She hung up.

Veronica called him right away, and she heard his ringtone vaguely, much to her surprise. She got out of bed and went to the door, where the sound was coming from. She leaned her head against it and heard his ringtone playing outside. What is he doing outside?

The ringtone stopped playing as she hung up. She opened the door at once, but his face was not the first thing she saw. Instead, it was a gigantic bouquet of roses.

Matthew was standing right in front of her. He stared at her gently, a loving smile curling his lips. "Happy birthday, Roni."

The sudden twist surprised her. She looked at him, grateful and guilty at the same time, and she pursed her lips. "Um..." There was a lump in her throat, and she was too touched to say anything. She stared at the roses and smelled their lovely scent, which refreshed her. "Thank you." She took the flowers and held it in her arms, her face red. "I thought you'd be mad at me. I wasn't being too nice."

His cap was already gone. He pushed his fringe back and cocked his eyebrow. "I trust you." He would trust her, since he had chosen her. He did feel jealous after seeing her hug her friend, but he had other ways of punishing her.

"You came all the way just to celebrate my birthday?"

"Of course."

"Thank you, Matt." She held his hand and took him into the room, and he closed the door after them. Veronica tossed the bouquet on the couch and turned around to hug him, then kissed him passionately.

The kiss warmed his cold, cold heart. He wrapped his arm around her waist and stepped ahead. Matthew put the cake that he was holding on the table before he picked her up and tossed her on the bed, kissing her back more passionately.

Just when they were getting into the mood, someone knocked on the door and ruined it. Matthew's face fell, and a storm brewed in his eyes.

Veronica was amused by that look on his face. She pushed him away. "Get off me. I'll see what it is."

"Ignore them." He took the remote control and pressed on a button to close the curtains. He then held her and resumed the kiss.

However, Veronica's phone rang right at the same time. She looked at it and was surprised to find that Larry was calling her. She smiled sheepishly. "I'll take this call."

However, he had already taken her phone away and turned on the speaker.

“Hey, Demoness, I just remembered it’s your birthday today. Sorry for missing that the first time, but I’ve sent room service over to give you your present. Just open the door and take it from them.”

Chapter 399 It’s a Prank

Veronica froze up. What the hell is he doing? He’s giving me a present now? She blinked and looked at Matthew. There was a dark look on his face, and if looks could kill, she would have been dead three times by now. Gotta cheer him up.

She smiled sheepishly. “Um, can you get up for a moment? I need to get the... present.” It was a coincidence that she ran into Larry on her birthday. She would have forgotten all about it if Matthew had not come and told her about it. Matthew was upset, but he still got up and let her get the door anyway.

A foreign waiter stood outside, and he handed a mysterious gift to her. It was a beautiful white box, and a black-gold ribbon was tied around it. “Hello, miss. Here’s your present.”

She closed the door and muttered, “What on earth is this? So mysterious.” I hate mysteries. They can be a real shocker if done wrongly.

Matthew leaned against the wall with his arms crossed. He was looking at the present with interest and waiting for her to open it.

Veronica licked her lips. It’s gonna get real messy if I don’t open this. “Calm down. I’ll open it right away.” She went over to the table and put the present on it, then unraveled the ribbon and slowly unboxed it. She was curious about what the content was, but the moment she saw the thing inside, she blanched. Veronica slammed the cover shut as fast as she could, and her arms looked like a blur for a moment.

“Hey, why are you keeping it a secret? Is it something good?” Matthew took a seat on the couch and leaned forward. He stared at the box and cocked his eyebrow.

“I-it’s nothing.” She mustered the best smile she could and puffed her cheeks, trying to act like a kid. “Oh, you can’t see this. My friend gave me this. I have to keep it a secret.” She smiled. F*ck you, Larry! *uck you! What the hell did I ever do to you? Why did you do this to me, you *sshole?

“A secret, eh?” He cocked his eyebrow and nodded seriously. “I see. You’d better keep that secret well, Roni. Don’t let it slip.” He sighed. “It’s getting late. I have to go back to the country for work.” He stood up and left.

“Huh? D-Don’t leave, Matthew...” That was what she said, but what she had in mind was, Please leave. Please, please, please, please, please. You can’t find out about the truth, or you’ll kill me.

However, he stopped right before he left the room, and the man turned around. Unlike his usually aloof self, this perfectly sexy man had a gentle smile on his face. "Well, if you want me to stay, then I guess I can stay."

"What? Um..." Veronica froze up and tried her best to come up with an idea to make him leave. In the end, she got an idea. "Matt, um, it's really sad that I came to Castron and didn't get a chance to go to the biggest amusement park in the world. It's my birthday today. Can you take me there?" She wanted to leave the hotel as soon as possible. If she got on Matthew's bad side, she would probably die.

He slowly came up to her and wrapped his arm around her waist. The man leaned down and pressed his forehead against hers, looking at her with love in his eyes. "Roni..." he called her nickname affectionately.

She fell for his gentle hold, and she calmed down. "What is it? Are you taking me to the amusement park now?"

He shook his head imperceptibly. There were only millimeters between them.

She could feel his nose touching hers when he shook his head, and his lips brushed against hers from time to time, which riled her up. She was waiting in anticipation for his next action, but he turned around and lay on top of her, pinning her down on the couch. Everything spun around her, and she felt dizzy, and before she could regain her bearings, he had already opened the present and taken the content out.

"Don't do it, Matthew!" she gasped, but it was too late.

Matthew held the gift up in his right hand, and he frowned. He held it between his thumb and index finger in disgust. His face fell, and silence descended upon them. It was just like the calm before the storm, and the air froze up.

Veronica was trying to find a way out, so she curled up and held the hem of her shirt. She cursed, "Damn you, Larry! I'll kill you the next time we meet!" I knew that f*cker was up to something. I f*cking knew it!

"What is this, Ve. Ro. Ni. Ca?" Matthew glared at her, enunciating his words slowly. The look in his eyes was threatening to burn her up.

She gulped, her face red with embarrassment, but still she forced a smile. "Um, M-Matthew, Matt, I-I have no idea. What do you expect me to say?"

"No explanation? So you admit to cheating?"

"What? No! Of course not." She smiled awkwardly and pointed at the transparent and sexy black lace lingerie. One look was enough to cause stirrings in a man's groin. If someone were to wear it, she would probably be burned by the flames of desire.

Goddammit, Larry! You scoundrel. You couldn't have gone with something innocent like a diffuser? You just had to go with lingerie? She kept cursing him, but at the same time, she was coming up with an explanation. She had a feeling he would kill her if she failed to explain herself today.

"I didn't know you were so close to the superstar. Everyone says he never gets involved in any scandals, but I guess they're wrong." He took the lingerie over and fiddled it with both hands. He was gesticulating at Veronica with it. "Well, he did give you a present. We shouldn't waste it, don't you think, Roni?"

The man might be calm and smiling, but she felt a chill run down her spine for some reason, and her hair stood on end. Her heart was also pumping furiously. "Matt... I mean, honey... Honey..." She had to find a way to cheer him up, so she shamelessly called him 'honey'. "We have plenty of time to do that in the future. Why don't we just go to the amusement park or something?"

Chapter 400 Special Spending

He was delighted to hear her call him 'honey', but that was not enough to appease him. He raised the lingerie... No, this isn't even lingerie. Someone just decided to slap three pieces of cloth on a string and call it a day. It's smaller than my palm, and most of it is transparent! "I'd rather have my fun on the bed.

And I love... well, submissive women." He tossed the lingerie to her and looked at the time. "You have one minute. Get changed." He got up and sat on the other side of the couch with his legs crossed. He was like a king staring down at his subjects, and she thought he looked a bit majestic.

Veronica was shivering, and she sat up reluctantly. She took the lingerie off her face, and she felt like screaming. "Matt, I-I'm tired. Can we not do this?" she asked.

"No," he said curtly, as if even one more word would be a waste. Goddammit, Matthew. Fine! Gonna use my trump card then. "I mean, it's not like I don't want to do it. It's just... I'm on my period," she lied, her face red.

"Really? Take it off and let me see." "I-I-I... I said I'm on my period." I can't take it off. How should I take it off?

"Really? Take it off." He did not care. Matthew looked languid, as if he was in control. He was making it hard for her on purpose.

She thought about it for a moment and said, "Why don't I take it off in the bathroom and take it to you?" Oh my god. Is this his fetish or something?

“No. I won’t feel disgusted. Do it right here.” Hah. Let’s see how long you can keep up that lie. “Um... Um...” she hemmed and hawed, but she still could not form a coherent sentence after a long time.

He looked at his wristwatch. “Ten, nine, eight...” He started counting down.

She knew him too well. Angering him would land her in a worse spot than she was now. After some internal debate, she decided to go all out. “Fine, I’ll...” Someone knocked on the door again before she could finish, and she heaved a sigh of relief secretly.

“I’ll get the door, Matt.” She laughed nervously. She had no idea why the waiter came, but he had saved her. Just in time. I hope it’s something important. Best if we can leave this place. She happily went and took the door, then she tilted her head to the side. “What is it?”

“Hello, Miss Murphy, I’m Frank. I’m the server you ordered. It’s an honor to serve you.” The handsome man smiled at her, greeting her happily.

Veronica was a bit out of the loop. “Sorry? I don’t think I’ve ever ordered anything.” Matthew had come over at that moment.

The man called Frank nodded at Matthew, and he continued, “Miss Murphy, I’m here to serve you. I know you wanted the top three of the club, but don’t worry. You’ll be happy with m—”

She slammed the door shut before he could finish. She craned her neck stiffly and gulped. Larry, you f*cker! You’re gonna kill me! She laughed dryly, but even she thought her laugh was fake. She looked back, and indeed, what she saw was Matthew’s icy glare.

He put one hand in his pocket and raised her chin with the other. “What? You’re already dissatisfied with me?”

“No, I...” She smiled, but she could feel her heart stopping. Someone knocked on the door again, but she ignored it. Even so, the guy outside knocked on it even faster.

Matthew wrapped his arm around her waist. “Roni, we gotta have integrity. You asked for their top servers, so don’t leave them hanging.” He took her to the entrance and opened the door.

There were three men standing outside the door, all of whom were six feet tall. One looked like a happy guy, the other was handsome, and the last one looked devilish. They were all hot, but Veronica thought she would be dead if she tried anything.

“Hello, Miss Murphy. I’m Harold, server number 880 of Club Kate. I’m from Bloomstead, just like you. I’ll make sure you get the best experience of your life.”

“I’m Donald, Miss Murphy. I’m from Collins. We’re technically from the same town, so do call for me next time. I’ll give you a discount.”

“Yes, Miss Murphy. You wanted all three of us to serve. Let us in and we can work.”

The men kept talking. They probably thought Matthew was a gigolo as well, so they did not hold back.

Veronica swore this was the first time in her life she felt so awkward and tormented. She almost wanted to fall on her knees and begged them to stop. “Um... Are you sure you got the right woman? I didn’t call for you.” She tried her best to stay calm.

“You paid us, Miss Murphy. We’re all going to serve you for a day and a night. You paid fifteen grand for that. We’ll be in trouble if you don’t let us serve you.”

“That’s true.”

“Our boss specifically told us to make sure you’re happy before we can leave.”

She could see that they were genuine and serious. They were not embarrassed at all, but Veronica could feel her face burning up. However, she also felt a chill run down her spine. That song of ice and fire was killing her. “I said I didn’t—”

She wanted to say not, but before she could, Matthew cut in, “Fifteen five grand for a night with three men. I guess you guys are competent. You spent the money, so we might as well use their service. Don’t let it go to waste.” He took her back into the room. “Come in,” he told the men.

“Sorry?” She could not believe what she was hearing. Veronica shoved him away and turned around to kick the door shut, then she locked the door and leaned against it. She was already huffing and puffing. “Are you mad, Matthew? This is illegal!”

He put his hands into his pockets and smiled. “Not in Castron.” She blanched, and he chuckled. He had actually called the men over to give them a massage, though he was surprised she was so shocked.

“I-it’s still not right. I’m your girlfriend, and you’re doing it along with three other guys? Where’s your conscience?”

“What are you talking about? They’re just here to massage us. What do you mean? I don’t get it,” he teased her. He knew what she was talking about, but he played dumb.