

Love Amidst the Shadow

Chapter 10

Adam's question hit home, and I was at a loss for words. Instead, I said to him, "Focus on your recovery. Don't be silly." He looked at me, his dark eyes filled with guilt. "Are you not getting married because of my illness?" I smiled lightly and hugged him. "No, it's because I haven't met the person I want to marry yet. It has nothing to do with you. Don't overthink it." He was still about to speak, but he was interrupted by Mom. "Ade, enough talking. You have to rest now." Though he inwardly refused, he had no choice but to shut up reluctantly. After a while, perhaps the medicine took effect, for he fell asleep. In the silent ward, Mom looked at me, hesitating to speak. After a momentary struggle, she eventually spoke up. "Vivi, I know that you're grown up and you have your own opinions, but since you have a boyfriend, why don't you take some time out and let your dad and I meet him? You're a girl, after all, but you hurt your womb before getting married. No matter what kind of person he is, as parents, we can't help but feel worried." I lowered my head, unable to find the words to say to Mom for a while. After a short silence, I said, "Mom, I've already broken up with him." "Broken up?" Mom was taken aback. She looked at me, agitated. "Why did you break up? You are a good girl and even aborted his baby, but now you've broken up. What's going on?" "Mom, don't bring this up anymore. I know I was wrong!" Looking at Mom, I couldn't bear to tell her the full details of the situation. She was so angry that she couldn't sit still, but she couldn't bear to scold me, so she merely sighed. "What a mess. If your dad found out about this, you... *Sigh!*" As she sat down to wipe away her tears, I lowered my head and exited the ward silently. Once I had left the hospital, I subconsciously arrived at the apartment. After a few days, it was covered with dust inside. It was only after a whole afternoon of cleaning that I managed to make the house spotless. After all, I had to move out soon. When Emil entered, I was taking a bath and didn't hear the door open. He probably followed the sound of water to look for me in the bathroom. When he embraced me all of a sudden, I screamed in fright, thinking that a robber had broken into the house and bit him in panic. He carried me to the sink and said in a low voice, "It's me!" Hearing the familiar voice, I stiffened before letting out a sigh of relief. When I wiped the water droplets from my face, I saw his magnified handsome face looking at me. As our eyes met, we knew very well what was about to happen next after our countless encounters. Even though I had just gone through an abortion, I was aware that I didn't have the rights to refuse, so I chose to be silent. After it was over, he left expressionlessly. As I watched his large figure exiting the bathroom, I could only feel my heart growing cold. In the bedroom, he stood on the balcony with a fresh cigarette between his fingers, his slender back facing me. When he heard my footsteps, he glanced backward at me and snuffed out the cigarette. His dark, indifferent eyes fell on me as he asked in a cold voice, "What do you want?" I was taken aback for a moment, but his meaning was clear. He came to cut ties with me. *What do I want?* I pursed my lips, but a laugh slipped out before I could stop it. I looked at him and asked, "President Penrose, what do you think you should give me so that I wouldn't disturb your happy life

with Miss Turing?" He raised his eyebrow, his expression darkening. "Vivian, don't test my limits, okay?" *Is that a warning?* As I approached him, the smell of tobacco emanated off his body and tempted me. I greedily wanted to lean on his chest like Kelly and quietly listen to his heartbeat for the last time, but he violently pushed me away in disgust. Just as he was about to flip out, I straightened my posture and declared, "This much!" Then I spread out my fingers. I knew better than anyone else that it wouldn't do me any good to continue pestering him. He glanced at my fingers and sneered mockingly. "Five million? Vivian, you really are greedy!"