

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 101

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 101 Another Disaster

I was so sleepy that it took every ounce of willpower I had just to open my eyes.

I managed to find my phone after a bit of fumbling about, and the sight of Shannon's name on the caller ID got me wide awake with rage instantly.

She went missing when I needed her yesterday, and now she wakes me up so early in the morning? I'm going to give her a piece of my mind!

"Hey, Liliana! Are you with Nicholas right now?"

Wow... I haven't been home for a whole night, and the first thing she does is ask about Nicholas instead of my safety? Unbelievable!

"Look, I'm going to hang up if you don't have anything important to tell me. I'm really tired and need a bit more sleep."

"You won't be sleeping once you see what's on Twitter, especially on Nicholas' account! Hurry up and check it out! Oh, and make sure to stay where you are! Don't go anywhere, or I won't be able to save you in time!"

Although I was still confused as to what was going on, Shannon's anxious tone had gotten rid of my sleepiness completely.

I have a very bad feeling about this...

I thought to myself as I stared at the Twitter icon on my phone for quite a while after hanging up.

Eventually, I mustered the courage and tapped on it, only to be greeted by a Tweet that read: Famous Superstar Gets Into A Brawl For The Woman He Loves!

It became clear to me that someone must've gotten pictures of Nicholas' fight with Dominic yesterday.

With that in mind, I could more or less figure out what the content would be and didn't bother reading the rest of the posts.

I then pulled up Nicholas' Twitter account, and to say I was surprised would be an understatement.

Nicholas had lost a huge amount of fans because of me, and to make matters worse, a lot of them turned into haters and swore to boycott him from then on.

I tossed my phone aside in shock and ran out of the bedroom without even fixing my messy hair.

His bedroom was empty, so I ran downstairs and saw him talking on the phone.

Upon taking a few steps closer, I could hear him saying, "Don't worry, this is all temporary. Give it some time, people will forget all about it. Tell the director that I'll take two days off. Yes, that'll be all. Bye."

"What are you doing up so early? Don't you want to get a little more sleep?" Nicholas asked when he saw me standing behind him.

I shook my head. "No, I was woken up by Shannon's call. Nicholas, the Twitter posts..."

Nicholas cut me off by placing a finger over my lips as he said, "Have you forgotten what we agreed upon yesterday? No more thanking me, remember? Since we're friends, I don't want you apologizing to me either."

I knew it was really bad timing and all, but I found myself being distracted by the scent on Nicholas' finger.

Dominic only reeks of tobacco and nothing else, but this... There's a hint of sweetness in its fragrance... He doesn't smell like any guy I've ever met! Wait... No, this isn't what I should be thinking about right now! Snap out of it, Liliana!

With that in mind, I recollected my thoughts and pulled his finger away from my lips.

"What good would apologizing do anyway? I was going to ask you what we should do next. Have you checked your Twitter account? Do you see the number of fans you've lost? Also, you said you would be taking two days off work, right? Is it because this incident has affected the filming process? What are we going to do?"

"It's not that serious, Liliana. Just give it some time and let it die down for a bit. Now isn't the time to make public explanations, especially with this wound on my face. This is the reason why I chose to take a few days off work."

Nicholas then paused for a moment and gave it some thought before continuing, "I'll just have Scarlett help me out once this dies down after two days. Don't worry, Liliana. I'll make sure to take care of this as best as I can to minimize its impact on you."

"I'm just a nobody, so stop worrying about me! If anything, you should be more worried about yourself! Are you sure you can handle this? I don't want it affecting your career in the future!" I exclaimed while frantically waving my arms.

Nicholas flashed me a confident smile and said, "Relax, I've been in the entertainment industry for over ten years now. Handling this sort of thing is a piece of cake! Though, you should probably stay here for the next two days. I will need your cooperation with something when the time comes."

Although I had no idea what Nicholas was planning on doing, I knew for sure that I couldn't possibly handle this on my own. As such, doing as he says was the only way to avoid causing him any further trouble.

I gave Shannon another call afterward to brief her on the arrangements for the next two days.

Nicholas also had me remind her to stay home as much as possible to avoid bumping into journalists outside.

Lastly, I told her to stay in touch at all times before hanging up.

This time, however, I wasn't afraid of the journalists calling me as I had downloaded an application on my phone to block all calls from unknown numbers.

Jake came over during lunchtime with a bunch of grocery bags in hand.

He let out a cold snort when he saw me, only to look all distressed and pained when he saw Nicholas' face.

"Oh, my! You poor thing! Look at you! Your handsome face has been wounded! Nic, did you really get into a fight with someone? Are you hurt anywhere else? Show me!"

Nicholas brushed his hands off and said calmly, "I'm fine, so stop overreacting, will you?"

"You call this fine? There's a cut on your lip! Oh, it hurts me so much to see you like this!"

Unable to stand it anymore, I raised my hand and said, "I'm sorry that Nicholas got hurt because of me, but I've already treated his wound, so it'll heal very soon!"

I thought Jake would go easier on me after hearing my honest confession, but that wasn't the case. Instead, the look in Jake's eyes grew increasingly furious as he glared at me.

If looks could kill, I would probably have died ten times over in that instant.

"From this moment on, you are not allowed to come anywhere near Nic! You've brought him nothing but trouble ever since you two met! You should stay as far away as possible from him!"

What he said was right, and I could only rub my nose awkwardly in response.

“What are you saying, Jake? Liliana is my friend!” Nicholas sounded a little angry.

“Friend? She is more like a jinx!” Jake said while glaring at me in disdain.

Nicholas looked really mad when he heard that. “Jake!”

“Fine! I’ll shut up, okay? Calm down, Nic! You must be hungry, right? I bought you a lot of ingredients! Let me make you something to eat!” Jake gave in immediately.

“I’ll do it myself.” Nicholas refused Jake’s offer.

“What? Did you just say you’re going to make lunch yourself? You mean, you can cook?” Jake exclaimed in surprise.

His reaction surprised me as well. Has Nicholas never cooked in front of him?

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 102 Worried

Nicholas then took the grocery bags over from Jake and made his way into the kitchen.

Jake followed behind him and asked, “Wait... Nic, are you sure you can cook?”

“Duh! How else am I supposed to make lunch?” Nicholas replied casually.

“But I’ve never seen you cook!”

I was able to hear everything they said as I followed behind them. So I was right! Nicholas has never cooked anything for Jake! In that case, I must be insanely lucky to have him make me pasta last night! Damn, I should’ve taken a picture of it as a memento!

Nicholas then placed the ingredients on the kitchen counter and said, “You go wait outside, Jake. Scarlett should be coming over soon.”

Jake frowned when he saw Nicholas reach for the knife. “I think I should do the cooking instead. Don’t want your silky smooth hands getting all dirty now! Besides, it’d be bad if you accidentally cut yourself or something!”

I couldn’t help but chuckle at how nervous Jake was. I bet he must be Nicholas’ biggest fan!

Nicholas placed the knife down and let out a sigh. "I'm not a porcelain doll, Jake."

Jake pouted. "But I'm worried about you!"

I decided it was time for me to step up and said, "Um, how about I do the cutting while Nicholas does the cooking? That way, it would still be his cooking, but without the risk of injuries! There, a win-win solution!"

"You?" Jake eyed me doubtfully from head to toe.

I nodded profusely in response and winked at Nicholas as I said, "Yup! Don't worry, I'll be sure to keep Nicholas away from the knives!"

It's a lot better to have me help out than Jake nag endlessly, right?

Nicholas spoke up as well. "Sure, we'll go with that. Jake, you call Scarlett and ask her when she'll be here. Oh, and help me pack up the clothes in the bedroom while you're at it."

Jake was clearly unhappy about his decision but agreed to it reluctantly anyway.

I waited until he had disappeared from sight before teasing Nicholas, "He sure worries a lot about you!"

"He worries too much!" he replied with a chuckle.

"I bet you two must be really close, huh? You know, like how Shannon and I are."

"Yeah, I knew Jake since I got into the entertainment industry. He's the one who stayed by my side this whole time."

I could relate to what he said as it was the same between Shannon and me.

Having tasted the pasta he made last night, I had great confidence in his cooking skills and carried on chatting with him while preparing lunch.

Despite it being our first time preparing a meal together, we complemented each other surprisingly well and were rather fast at getting the job done.

It didn't take long before lunch was served and looked absolutely amazing.

The doorbell rang right as we were done setting the table, and I saw Scarlett standing outside when I opened the door.

"You're right on time! Nicholas has just finished making lunch, so you get to eat it while it's hot!"

“Nicholas made lunch?” Judging by the look on her face, I figured she was really surprised by it as well.

Wait, this doesn’t make sense... There’s no way she wouldn’t know about Nicholas being able to cook!

“Yeah, that’s right. Surely you’ve tried his cooking before, right?” I asked curiously.

Scarlett didn’t deny it. “I haven’t seen him cook in a really long time.”

“Come on, Letty! Lunch is ready! Nic made it himself!” Jake shoved me aside and led Scarlett inside by the arm.

Wow... Talk about differential treatment... I bet Jake has added my name to his blacklist or something. Well, not that it matters, though! Scarlett changed into that pair of women’s slippers very naturally like it was a habitual thing, so I can at least confirm my suspicion about her having some sort of intimate relationship with Nicholas.

After lunch, I volunteered to do the dishes as I couldn’t have Nicholas do everything by himself, and I certainly couldn’t let Scarlett do it as it would taint her air of elegance.

As for Jake, I knew for a fact that he would surely offer his help if Nicholas were the one doing the dishes. Since it was me doing it instead, he simply strutted off like it was none of his business.

I heard my phone ringing behind me while washing the dishes and saw Nicholas bringing it to me when I turned around.

“Who’s calling? Is it Shannon?” I asked.

Nicholas hit the answer button and said, “No. Here, I’ll hold it for you so you can carry on washing.”

As I didn’t get a chance to see the caller ID earlier, I only found out that it was Benjamin after hearing his voice on the phone.

I hadn’t been in contact with him ever since I took care of things with Julius.

“Why’d you call me up all of a sudden, Benjamin? Just so you know, I can’t tell you anything if you’re going to ask me about the recent rumors.” I decided to make my point clear right from the start.

Benjamin’s tone was rather unpleasant. “I’m not interested in any of that. Honestly, I didn’t think you’d do such a thing, Liliana. Looks like I was wrong about you.”

I turned the tap off and asked with a frown, “What do you mean by that? What did I do?”

What the hell is he on about? What did I do to piss him off?

Benjamin said with a cold chuckle, “Heh, I’d rather not waste my time and energy on pointless explanations. If you have any conscience left in you, come visit Dominic at City Hospital yourself.”

“Wait, what happened to Dominic? Tell... Hello?”

He hung up on me... This is unbelievable! What the h*ll did he mean by that? Did Dominic get hospitalized due to some kind of disease? Or is this just some new trick he came up with to gain my sympathy? Yeah, it’s probably the latter. I mean, he got into a fight with me yesterday, and he even punched Nicholas in the face! There’s no way he’d suddenly end up in the hospital on that very same day! Besides, even if he really did get hospitalized, he has Camille to look after him, so why would I want to go there and see them act all lovey-dovey?

“What happened, Liliana? Did something happen?”

Nicholas’ voice snapped me out of my train of thought, and I shook my head in response. “No, it’s just another one of my nosy friends trying to ask me about this incident. I’m almost done here, so you can go spend some time with Scarlett.”

Despite my countless efforts at telling myself to not think about Dominic, I just couldn’t seem to get it out of my mind.

Knowing Benjamin, he wasn’t the type who would joke about such things. Did something really happen to Dominic?

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 103 Nearly Drank Himself To Death

You can’t get the cork back into the wine bottle once it came out, and the same concept applies to certain things in life.

In my case, the news of Dominic being hospitalized was the cork, and my mind was the bottle. I couldn’t stop myself from worrying about him, and my condition only worsened with each passing second.

After staring long and hard at my phone on the kitchen counter, I clenched my teeth and decided to give Dominic a call anyway.

My logic at the time was simple. If Dominic answers my call, it means he’s perfectly fine, and that nothing has happened to him!

I made the call, and it got through, but the person on the other line was not Dominic.

“Why are you calling him on his phone? I told you to come over to the hospital and see for yourself, didn’t I?”

I froze when I heard Benjamin’s voice again and even though I had called the wrong number.

“Why would I want to go visit him? For all I know, you two could be in cahoots and are simply trying to trick me into going there!”

Given what James had done in the past, it wasn’t exactly my fault for being a little paranoid.

“Us trying to trick you? I don’t have that much time and energy for such nonsense, Liliana! Anyway, I’ve said everything I should, so it’s up to you whether you choose to come over. I just hope you won’t make a decision you’ll come to regret later on!”

Benjamin hung up on me once again, and I placed my phone back down on the kitchen counter.

Damn it, Benjamin! Why do you keep hanging up on me without telling me what happened?

I then turned the tap back on and wet the dishcloth before scrubbing hard on the bowl.

“Damn it! Damn it all to h*ll!” I cursed in frustration and threw the dishcloth into the sink. I then grabbed my phone and ran out of the kitchen.

Nicholas and the others were having a conversation in the living room, but I couldn’t care less about that and interrupted them, “I need to head out for a bit, can you give me a lift?”

“Where to?” Nicholas asked.

“City Hospital.”

“Oh, wow! You’re going to the hospital just because you’ve scrubbed dishes? Nic made us all lunch! You don’t see him going to the hospital because of that!” Jake said sarcastically.

I didn’t have time to argue with Jake, so I simply kept my gaze fixated on Nicholas as I asked, “Can you take me to City Hospital?”

Nicholas got up from the couch and said, “Sure, come on. I’ll get you a hat and a pair of sunglasses.”

Naturally, I had no reason to refuse his offer as it was for my own good.

“What if the journalists see you guys, Nic? Things could get really problematic!” Scarlett objected.

“We’ll just have to be careful. Wait here, Liliana,” Nicholas said as he ran up to the second floor.

I knew it was a bad time for me to go outside, but I was so worried about Dominic that I couldn’t help it.

Since Benjamin refused to explain the situation, I couldn’t rest until I confirmed it for myself.

“Ms. Zanetti, you should be more considerate about Nicholas’ situation.”

This was the second time I had met Scarlett in person since yesterday, and she had been very polite to me the whole time.

However, I could tell that she was angry from the tone of her voice just now.

“I’ll be extra careful...” That was all I could say.

Nicholas came back downstairs shortly after and handed me the hat and sunglasses. “Jake, Scarlett, you guys can either wait here or head on home. Bye now!”

Nicholas then drove as quickly as he could toward the hospital.

While driving, he asked me, “Why are you going to the hospital in such a hurry now? Is it because of Dominic?”

“Yeah, I’m just going to check on him and see if he’s okay,” I replied with a nod.

Not knowing for sure if he was okay was exactly what made me so worried.

Nicholas parked his car in the hospital’s underground parking lot. “Make sure you call and find out which floor he’s on. Don’t go running around searching every floor like a headless chicken.”

I then gave Benjamin a call and asked, “I’m at the hospital now. Where is he?”

“Level 16, V1606.”

Benjamin was surprisingly cooperative this time, and that made me a lot more suspicious.

I had wanted Nicholas to wait in the car while I went upstairs by myself as it would reduce my chances of drawing attention to myself.

However, Nicholas insisted on going with me, so I had no choice but to do as told.

The elevator leading to the VIP wards was isolated from the others and required a password for activation. I entered the password that Benjamin had provided me with earlier, and the two of us took the elevator up to the sixteenth floor.

It didn't take long before we found Dominic's ward, and Nicholas offered to wait outside by himself before I even said anything.

I pushed the door open and saw Benjamin standing in a corner, followed by Dominic who was lying on the hospital bed.

"Hmph... I guess you do have some conscience in you, after all," Benjamin said coldly.

I walked up to the hospital bed and saw that Dominic's face and lips were as pale as a sheet.

He was hooked up to an IV drip, and a clear liquid was slowly flowing into his body through the tube.

It took me every ounce of willpower I had in me to keep myself from crying when I saw how lifeless he looked.

"What happened to him?"

"Nothing. He just nearly drank himself to death, that's all."

"Why did he go drinking?"

He called me "used goods", so why did he try to drink his sorrows away? Shouldn't he be happier without me?

Benjamin eyed me from head to toe and said, "You wait here. I need to go make a phone call."

He then walked out of the ward, leaving me all alone with Dominic.

How much did he drink to nearly dying from it like this?

"Why did you go drinking, Dominic? Was it because we got into a fight yesterday? Or was it because you got upset after hearing Nicholas call me his girlfriend?" I mumbled to myself as I sat by the hospital bed.

Nah, who am I kidding? He doesn't love me anymore, so there's no way he'd be upset about that!

I let out a wry chuckle at the thought of that and reached out to hold his cold hand in mine, hoping it would warm him up a little.

"What are you doing?"

I looked up in surprise and saw that he had woken up.

"Nothing!" I quickly let go of his hand.

"Why are you here? Who told you to come here?"

Dominic was rude, but I couldn't be bothered to get mad at a patient.

"Benjamin told me you were hospitalized and asked me to come to see you."

"There's nothing much to see, so hurry up and get lost!"

My goodness, talk about attitude!

I clenched my fists and forcefully suppressed my anger as I asked, "Tell me, why did you go drinking?"

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 104 He Did That Intentionally

"That's none of your business!"

I had never felt more stupid for caring about him.

"You're right, it is none of my business. Benjamin told me you nearly drank yourself to death, but I'm kind of disappointed that you didn't actually die. Please tell your men to not inform me unless it's your funeral."

I then turned around and walked toward the door after saying that.

Damn it, I shouldn't have come! Why was I even worried about this piece of sh*t?

I thought to myself as I opened the door, only to see Camille standing outside with her eyes red and swollen.

Oh, for f*ck's sake! Why am I so unlucky? Now I have to deal with another piece of sh*t!

"Liliana..." Camille took a step back in fear when she saw me.

I wasn't sure why she reacted that way toward me, but I didn't care and simply walked past her.

I didn't see Nicholas outside the ward, so I was about to give him a call when I saw Yvonne coming over.

"Dr. Baker!" I waved at her.

"Ah, are you here to visit Dominic?" Yvonne asked straightforwardly.

My cheeks puffed up with anger as I replied, "Hmph! Why would I visit someone that lively and well? Besides, he's got his fiancée with him, so I'd just be a third wheel there!"

Yvonne adjusted her glasses and asked, "Aren't you curious as to why he ended up being hospitalized?"

I shook my head. "I'm not interested in his affairs."

He just said it was none of my business, and I wasn't about to repeat that same mistake.

Yvonne ignored my reply and continued, "He drank too much and suffered from gastrointestinal bleeding. If this happens again, he could very well meet his maker on the spot."

I felt my chest tighten upon hearing that, but I responded by saying, "Only the good die young, so he's going to live a pretty long life."

"He actually did that with the intention to kill himself."

So what? That's none of my business!

"I've got some business to attend to, so I'll be on my way now. See you, Dr. Baker." I grew impatient and didn't want to stay there any longer.

I gave Nicholas a call after saying goodbye to Yvonne, and he asked me to wait for him at the elevator.

He said he would come over right away, but Camille came before he did.

The mere sight of that pretentious look of hers made me extremely uncomfortable, and she was the shameless type who would cling to you even when you keep trying to brush them off.

“Thank goodness, you’re still here. There’s something I want to talk to you about, Liliana.”

I said coldly, “We have nothing to talk about.”

“Don’t be like that, Liliana. I just wanted to apologize to you for what happened at the reunion. I didn’t know Dom would treat you like that.”

I let out a sarcastic chuckle. “Oh, please... Dominic isn’t here right now, so you can drop the act now, you pretentious b*tch! Apologize? Don’t make me laugh! I bet you were overjoyed at the time, weren’t you?”

Camille froze for a second and had an innocent look on her face.

However, that look quickly disappeared and was replaced by an annoying, gleeful grin.

“Of course! It’s nice to see how much Dom hates you!”

“Yeah, you look a lot easier on the eyes when you’re being your b*tchy self!” I said with a snicker.

Wanting to anger her even further, I stroked my chin and continued in a serious tone, “Camille, do you know what the difference is between your biggest strength and your biggest weakness? Well, I’ll tell you. Your weakness is you being a b*tch, and your strength is you being too much of a b*tch.”

“You...” Camille’s face went stiff from anger, and I could see her going through a myriad of expressions in an instant.

Not wanting to waste any more of my time on her, I waved at her like she was an annoying fly and said, “Dominic is waiting for you, so you should get going now.”

“I’m sorry, Liliana! I’m sorry...” Camille grabbed my arm and began crying all of a sudden.

I brushed her hand off in disgust. “Don’t touch me! Get your crazy a*s away from me!”

Man, she really is something! Glaring daggers at me a second ago, and breaking into tears the next? I’m surprised she hasn’t won an Oscar yet!

Camille grabbed onto my arm once again. “I know I’ve wronged you, and that I shouldn’t be with Dom! I’ll leave him so you can have him back, Lili!”

Her pretentious act was really starting to anger me, and I shoved her off in response.

“What the h*ll is wrong with you? You hit yourself on the head when you were little or something?”

She then pretended to fall down from being shoved, much to my disgust.

Wow, really? Can't you at least be a little more creative? That was such a light push! If you like falling so much, how about you try falling down a flight of stairs next time? Besides, Dominic isn't here, so what's the point of doing this?

“Who are you putting this act up for?”

“I'm not acting, Lili! Please, you have to believe me!”

Camille stood up and tried to grab me a third time, but I pushed her away really hard this time.

“Cut it out, damn it! Get the h*ll away from me!”

“Camille!”

I turned around when I heard someone call out to Camille, and saw a woman approaching from the corridor.

I had no idea who she was, but I knew for a fact that she wasn't Camille's mom.

I had been to Camille's house for dinner countless times when we were still close friends in university, so I knew how her mom looked like, and this woman looked nothing like her.

“When did you get here, Milena?”

The woman helped tidy up Camille's hair and said with a gentle smile, “I got here a while ago and was asking the doctor about his condition.”

Camille had a concerned look on her face as she asked, “So, what happened earlier...”

“Yes, I saw everything. Are you all right? You're not hurt, are you? Dom worries a lot about you, so it would pain him to see you getting injured like this.”

“Aw, shucks!” Camille blushed like a shy little girl.

Um... What on earth is going on here? Judging by the way this woman speaks, she seems to be very close with Dominic and Camille... Could she be a relative of some sort?

The woman gave Camille a pat on the back of her hand, and the look in her eyes changed when she turned toward me.

“So, you’re the woman who slept with my son?” she asked with an icy-cold and penetrating gaze.

Huh? Her son? Who? Dominic?

I was so shocked that my legs nearly gave out underneath me.

Where the h*ll is Nicholas when I need him?

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 105 The Last Time

I kept quiet, so Camille kept her act up. “Please, it’s not her fault. If it’s anyone’s fault, it’s mine. She was Dom’s girlfriend, after all.”

“See, Camille, you’re too kind for your own good. You think she’s your friend, but she doesn’t see you the same way. I know. I saw how she treated you.”

I rolled my eyes in exasperation. Another gullible soul. And here I thought she’s as smart as she looks. Camille didn’t have an ounce of kindness in her. Her soul was nothing but a wicked cesspool.

“She’s not that kind of person. We used to be great friends.”

“Alright, enough. Stand back.”

The woman pulled Camille back and shot me a nasty look. “I know you’re Dom’s ex, but that’s all you are now. His ex. Don’t even get any ideas about him, and stay away from Camille. We don’t welcome women like you here.”

Women like me? Wow, you jumped the gun before you even got to know me. Camille’s a fake b*tch, but anyone could see through her if they tried hard enough. This woman’s just stupid. Yeah, not my problem even if she was a moron. It’s not like I’d run into her anyway.

Ah, but I had to explain myself. No, not because I was trying to get in her good books. Not gonna make her head bigger than it already was. “Um, ma’am, don’t get ahead of yourself. Your son isn’t as popular as you think he is. It’s not like he’s the king of the world, you know.

“You ladies should get him off my back ASAP instead of hounding me around. Now that he has a fiancée, I suggest they get married as soon as possible. And tell him to stop harassing me. I don’t want to get in trouble for his mistakes.”

I still liked him, but since we had gotten to this point, it was impossible for us to date anymore. If he were to marry Camille, I could finally give up on him too, so win-win. Yeah, heartbreak and bitterness would be the price to pay, but it was a reasonable price.

I mean, the guy was just one fish in the ocean. Now that someone had angled him, I could move on to the next fish.

“Looks like someone really wants to attend my wedding, huh?”

I froze up and turned around ever so slowly, while Camille darted to Dominic’s side. “Hey, you shouldn’t be getting around.” She held his arm. “You’re still not off the IV infusion yet.”

The old hag went up to him, ignoring me. “What are you doing?” she chided. “You’re still sick! You shouldn’t have come out, not when you’re only wearing a shirt.”

“It is getting chilly. Camille, take mom to my ward and grab my jacket for me.”

Whoa, so that old lady really was Dominic’s mom. Hmm, guess I really crossed her when I insulted her son.

She was still fussing over her son though, worried that he might catch something if he kept walking around sick. “No. Go to your ward and rest up. You’re not going anywhere until you’re all healed.”

“Camille,” Dominic called her again.

Camille followed his every beck and call, so she was about to take his mother away, but the old lady glared at me. “I know where his ward is.” She went to Dominic’s ward. “Stay with Dom, Camille. Keep an eye on him.”

She gave me another look. Honestly, what was she thinking? I wouldn’t do anything to her son. I clicked my tongue, feeling vexed about the matter.

The guy might be sick, but he was still strong. I couldn’t do anything to him even if I wanted to.

After his mother had left, Dominic and Camille came up to me. He was looking thinner than the last time I saw him since his shirt was already getting oversized.

And he was looking sickly pale, so I instinctively walked up to him. In case he were to fall, I could grab him in time, but when I met his gaze, a chill ran down my spine, and the temperature around me dropped by a few centigrade.

“So, you want to attend my wedding?” he asked.

The question caught me by surprise, so I froze up, while Camille looked at me nervously, waiting for my answer.

“Even if I say no, would that stop you from marrying your fiancée?”

Dominic gazed at me. “Are you going to attend or not?” He was still insistent.

Crap, I told myself to give up on him, but for some reason, my heart was starting to pound. What’s he getting at? Would he cancel the wedding if I say no? ”I... Hey, if you guys want to get hitched, get hitched. I don’t get to call the shots here.”

I put a calm façade on, but I was pinching my thigh behind him, forcing myself to stay cool. I was terribly hurt five years ago, but he still wouldn’t let me go after our reunion. Even after five years, he was still playing me like a fool.

Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. I wasn’t gonna let him bully me again, so I wouldn’t play along anymore.

Dominic looked disappointed after hearing my answer, much to my surprise. I wanted to take a closer look, but that look of disappointment was already gone.

He smirked at me. “Of course you don’t get to call the shots here. Glad you know where you stand,” he said hoarsely. “But since you want to attend my wedding, I’ll send you an RSVP. We hope to see you there.”

I clenched my fists tightly, trying my best to stay calm. “Sure. I’m happy for you two.”

Dominic stared at me intently, then he raised his voice, “You heard her, Camille. Don’t forget to send her an RSVP.”

Camille was obviously overjoyed. “I’m glad you’re attending our wedding, Liliana,” she gushed. “I’ll be giving you the RSVP the first chance I get.”

I could feel my heart shattering into a million pieces, then Dominic’s mother came back with his jacket. “Alright, that’s enough.” She draped the jacket on him. “Let’s go back now.”

I stood rooted to my spot and saw them off, feeling hurt because of how happy they looked together. Why am I feeling sad? This is exactly what I want. Now that they’re happily hitched, nobody’s stopping me from getting another fish.

I sniffled and turned back to the elevator. My reflection was staring back at me, then I realized I was tearing up. Liliana, you're an idiot. I wiped the tears off my face, but I couldn't stop the sobs.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 106

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 106 Quashing The Rumors

The moment I got to the parking lot, Nicholas called me. "Hey, my fans won't let me go, so I can't come over. Can you wait for me at my car?"

I went to his car and waited for ten minutes before Nicholas came over in a hurry, then he unlocked the car. "Get in, on the double."

I noticed a bunch of people looking around when we were getting out of the place. "Fans of yours?"

"Yeah. Almost couldn't get away from them."

Nicholas drove toward South Hill from the hospital. "How's he looking?"

I kept quiet for a moment. "Great. Someone's attending to him 24/7. He's like a king now."

"What about you then?"

I smiled. "I'm doing great. Just wondering how much gift money I should prepare for the wedding. Can't give them too little, or it'd be too embarrassing, but can't give them too much either or I'd be broke."

"Wedding? Wait, Dominic's?"

"Yeah. I'd probably be getting an RSVP soon."

Nicholas didn't bring Dominic up for the rest of the trip. When we came back to the villa, only Jake was still up. He came up to us the moment we came in, shoving me away at the same time.

Jake checked up on Nicholas, mumbling incessantly at the same time. Since I had overstayed my welcome, I bade Nicholas good night before going back to my room.

I had nothing to do, and I didn't want to scroll through Twitter either, in case I got annoyed. In the end, I started binging crime shows on Netflix, since I needed a ton of gore to cure my depression.

Just when it was getting to the good part, my dad called me. He didn't beat about the bush and started asking me about the thing on Twitter. My dad was a traditional, egotistical man, so I was worried he might fly into a rage over the matter.

Look, I didn't mind the scolding, but it would be bad if he fell sick from this. Not to mention my mother would be worried for him as well. After some consideration, I told him it was just rumors and exaggerations. "They're just jokes, so don't take it seriously."

My dad kept quiet for a long while after that. "Lili, your mother and I have been thinking, and well, it seems that we've been neglecting you all this time.

"I'm not going to berate you or anything, but just remember, if life is getting too hard for you, you can come home anytime. We'll back you up this time. Not gonna let another Julius happen again."

I never expected my father to actually say that, so I started bawling. My father started laughing. "You're like a child." Yeah, so what? I mean, these guys were my parents. I could be a kid in front of them.

I talked to my mom for a while before hanging up, then I felt a lot more cheerful. Now that I was happier, the shows looked better in my eyes. All the corpses and gore were pure art to me, and I enjoyed every second of it.

I stayed at Nicholas' place for three days. The topic was still raising a storm on Twitter, but it was getting smaller. Then, someone made a tweet about my friendship with Scarlett that night, as well as the trip we went on together.

It was planned. Scarlett took me around for a stroll that afternoon, and she ran into the reporters on purpose. After that, the news of Nicholas and his manager's visit to the hospital made it trending, and this time, there were pictures to back it up.

One of the pictures was taken during the time he beat someone up for me, so after the tweet was made public, the news of his aggression was less believable now.

On top of that, Scarlett said I was with her all the time, which meant the news was nothing but a rumor. Nicholas wasn't Naruto, after all, so he couldn't show up at two places at the same time.

Melodramatic, yes, but effective. The public bought the story, and the comments on Nicholas' tweets got a lot less abusive.

I asked Shannon to pick me up at the villa in case someone were to stir up another storm. She came shortly after and drove me back to the hotel Flash reserved for us.

“The management called me. Liliانا, they want you to be more careful with your private life. They can’t control what you do, but whatever you do, don’t jeopardize the movie shoot, and don’t let anything get in the way of your comic.”

So the shoot was affected because of Nicholas’ three-day absence, huh? Flash wouldn’t blame a bigshot like Nicholas, so naturally, I became the scapegoat.

It had been two weeks or so since I joined the film crew to up my drawing game, but it had been nothing but scandals ever since. I couldn’t blame Flash for giving me a warning since I was behind schedule.

Honestly, all I wanted now was a peaceful life. If Dominic could get off my back for the next two weeks, it’d be swell.

Apparently, my prayer worked, since he never did show up again. Or maybe he was just sick. Either way, I managed to finish up my work before the deadline and handed it in to the company.

Just when I thought things were getting better, another unexpected event came smashing into my life. It wasn’t a big one, but it wasn’t minor either.

I was going to get some fresh air now that my manuscript was done, then I realized Nicholas and Scarlett were on set. Shannon was watching from the sidelines as well, so I went up to her.

“Shannon.” She was looking enthralled, so I pinched her.

She swatted my hand away, then she turned around. “Why are you here?” she said impatiently. “Done with your work today?”

“Yeah. Hey, don’t you get bored of this? It’s been almost a month, but you still look excited every time you see them.”

She shot me a disdainful look. “Ah, what do you know? I never get tired of hotties. And the assistant director said this is the first kissing scene of the shoot. It’s gonna be big, so don’t disturb me.”

Well, charmed, I guess? It’s the first kissing scene, but so what? Nicholas is gonna kiss Scarlett, not you, I said quietly. If I said that aloud, Shannon would kill me. She was already mad at me because I got to stay at Nicholas’ place for three days, so if I were to disturb her, she’d probably tear me apart.

Shannon and I weren’t the only audiences. The deuteragonists and a lot of the supporting cast were there to see the kiss. Then, a staff member chased us away. “Hey, stand back. We don’t want to see you in the shoot.”

Remember the unexpected event I said earlier? Yeah, it would come crashing in three, two, one...

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 107

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 107 An Imaginative Woman

Upon hearing the script supervisor advising everyone to step backward, I conformed without realizing how close I was to the lake.

Alas, in a split second, I missed a step and fell on my back.

“Ahh!” Astonished, I let out a shrill scream while waving my hands frantically in the air.

Panicked, I grabbed whatever was nearby. I had no idea what I held onto, but I clung to it as if it was my only life-saving straw.

Unfortunately, it slid off my hands and I fell into the lake with a loud thud.

I did not know how to swim, so all I could do was throw my hands around with the hope that I could stay afloat. Ironically, the more I did that, the more I sank into the depths of the lake. I even swallowed a fair amount of the water.

Right when I was about to pass out, I felt that my body was being dragged upward.

I could hear Nicholas' voice clearly. “I got you, Liliana. Relax and don't struggle.”

How could I relax when I was extremely scared? It was very difficult to heed his instruction, yet I tried my best to follow.

Subsequently, he pulled me up.

As soon as I got on land, I started to gasp for air relentlessly and coughed severely.

Shannon came over and covered me with some dry clothes. She patted on my back to console me.

Moments later, another person was also saved from drowning. To my surprise, I realized that I mistakenly pulled the supporting actress into the water just now.

Looking disheveled, she was still wearing the traditional costumes and make-up from the shoot.

I was still in shock and could not apologize to her right away.

Drenched, Nicholas asked, "Are you all right? How did you fall into the lake?"

"I... I didn't notice what was behind me. Achoo!" I was shivering and sneezing at the same time.

Then, I saw Nicholas stretching his arms wide as if he was about to give me a hug.

Meanwhile, Scarlett came over and assisted me along with Shannon.

She informed Nicholas, "I have some spare clothes with me. I'll bring her over to get changed immediately. Otherwise, she may fall sick in this weather."

I appreciated Scarlett's good intentions. However, all I could think of at that moment was my losses. I spent fifty thousand on that dress the last time. This time... Oh no, another fifty thousand... gone? I only have that much in my bank account. It seems like another one-third is going to be deducted after this episode.

When I arrived at Scarlett's private dressing room, she took out some clothes from her bag, passed them to me, and left.

I changed into her dry clothes in a flash.

"Ah... Achoo!"

Seeing that I was sneezing non-stop, Shannon urged, "Let's go, I'll drive you back to the hotel. Go get a hot shower and take some cold medicine as prevention."

Naturally, I could not refuse as I did not want to catch a cold either.

Before leaving, I felt that I should notify Nicholas and Scarlett. More importantly, I must apologize to Jean Lannon, the supporting actress.

Standing outside Nicholas' private dressing room, I heard a voice. "There have been so many untoward incidents recently and Liliana is always the cause. Nicholas, don't you find that strange?"

"What are your thoughts on this? Do you have feelings for her?"

Shannon nudged me and tilted her head toward the room. There was something behind her expression.

I glared at her as a warning.

Nicholas has helped me a lot because we're friends. I doubt he likes me.

The nosy Shannon tried to eavesdrop through the door. Hurriedly, I pulled her away before we were found.

In the end, I did not get to make it up to Jean and left the filming set instead.

I could not be bothered about how Shannon felt when I shoved her into the car. I just knew we had to leave as soon as possible.

During the journey back, she grumbled, "Why didn't you let me listen to their conversations? I haven't heard the heartthrob's reply. Aren't you curious what he would say?"

"Why are you being so inappropriately inquisitive? It's not right to pry into people's privacy. How embarrassing if we get caught!"

Shannon rebutted, "What are you talking about? I did it for your sake. I mean, I like Nicholas and Scarlett as an on-screen couple, but what if he has fallen for you? Have you ever thought about that?"

How delusional is she! Oh, this is unbearable.

"Do you think we're in a drama series or something? How could there be so many surprises in life? Given a choice between Scarlett and myself, anyone with a sane mind would know who he would choose. Nicholas and I are merely friends. Don't you go around and spread rumors about us."

Shannon made a face at me and dropped the topic.

Back in the hotel room, I took a hot bath.

When I came out, Shannon was holding my phone with a smug on her face. "Do you know who just called you? Nicholas. Do you want to know what did he say? He reminded me umpteen times to take good care of you, get you some medicines, and even cautioned me not to starve you nor let you fall sick.

"Well, it's definitely not quite a match to picture you and my gorgeous heartthrob together. Then again, you're my best friend. So, Liliانا, I'll support you all the way!"

Chuckling, I tossed the towel at her.

"Although I'm not an absolute beauty, I don't look too bad, do I? What's wrong with my girl-next-door look? Nicholas is just being nice as a friend. It's no big deal. Weren't you also very worried about me just now? You're so caring to me too. So, does it mean that you like me?"

The next moment, Shannon tumbled out of bed and darted toward me.

She jabbed on my head a few times and stated firmly, "Believe it or not, I can guarantee that my heartthrob has developed feelings for you."

I ignored her and went to blow my hair dry instead.

Whatever it is, I've said my peace.

The next day, Flash notified me that I was no longer needed to join the crew at the filming set but to continue submitting my scripts on time.

I recalled leaving some belongings behind with the crew, so Shannon and I planned to make a detour to collect it after leaving the hotel.

I thoughtfully brought along some snacks and beverages as I felt that I needed to bid farewell to the team on a good note and leave with a good impression. After all, I had stayed with them for a month and even caused some trouble. Moreover, the director, who was quite fierce toward the other actors, had never been angry with me.

I asked a staff where Jean was and got ready to approach her and apologize sincerely.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 108

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 108 A Beautiful Couple

The staff told me that Jean had fallen sick and was resting at the hotel.

Considering the fact that her hotel was just nearby, I planned to head over myself. I did not inform Shannon as she was happily engaged in a conversation with others.

Upon arriving at the hotel, I first found out which room Jean was in and then went to her.

Within seconds after ringing the door bell, Jean's assistant answered the door.

Smiling, I inquired, "Is Ms. Lannon here? I came by to apologize to her."

"Come on in, Jean's inside." Her polite assistant moved aside for me to enter.

I went in with the things I brought and saw Jean lying on the bed.

She did not seem too pleased to see me and I perfectly understood why. After all, she would not have fallen into the lake if it were not for what I did.

Last night, I made an effort to look it up on the Internet and got her something she liked as a gift.

Placing the gift on the table, I said earnestly, "I'm so sorry about yesterday, Ms. Lannon. I didn't mean it."

"Forget it. I don't know if you did it intentionally, but I'm aware that you have the backing of Nicholas, the superstar. Thus, no one dares to do anything to you."

Completely baffled, I did not know how to respond to her remarks.

Anyhow, I doubted she would want to listen to my explanation. "I'm going to rest for a bit." Her tone was seemingly impatient to send me off.

Feeling awkward, I smiled. "Oh, okay. Please take care. I'm going to take my leave now."

As soon as I got out of the hotel, Shannon called and I told her my location.

She came to get me. "Why did you come alone? Did Jean say or do anything to you?" Shannon was concerned.

I could not help but laugh. "I was there to apologize to her. What could she have done to me? It's okay."

I felt uneasy spitting out those words. I guess it doesn't matter anymore since nothing is affected on my end.

I sent Nicholas a text message as I felt like I needed to give him an update. When I was at the filming set, he was acting with Scarlett, so I did not disturb them.

Right after that incident, my life returned to normal. Dominic and Camille did not look for me. On the other hand, Nicholas was busy filming and barely contacted me.

Besides eating and sleeping, I spent the rest of my time drawing.

I was cooped up in the house for almost half a month until Shannon dragged me out into the sun one day.

To put it nicely, she wanted me to bask in the winter sun. In actual fact, her real intention was for me to accompany her shopping.

Actually, I was quite reluctant to go out. I would rather laze in bed and catch up with some beauty sleep.

As a single lady, I had no significant other to show off my beautiful clothes and delicate make-up to.

Women would always doll themselves up for men whom they love. However, I lacked an opportunity to do so at the moment.

On the contrary, Shannon was thrilled to go on a shopping spree. She entered into every single shop we passed by and desired to purchase everything she laid her eyes on.

Sitting on the couch in one of the shops, I watched her check herself out in the mirror, simpering. “Ms. Shannon Harper, you’ve been staring at yourself since forever. Have you made up your mind?” I asked languidly.

“I’m done. Wait a minute, which one is nicer? This or the one I tried previously?”

I sighed helplessly. “Just get both and end this dilemma of yours. “

She contemplated for another ten minutes. Suddenly, she pulled me up on my feet and stuffed the clothes she was holding into my hands.

“I think this one suits you best. Go ahead and try them on, Liliana.”

“No, thanks. You just carry on.” I don’t want to go through such a troublesome experience.

Shannon insisted that I do as she said. Pushing me into the changing room, she shut the door and warned me not to come out unless I put the clothes on.

She’s quite a character, isn’t she?

I acquiesced in her decision.

Then, she scrutinized me from all angles and exclaimed, “You look great! I’ll buy you this dress.”

A gift for me? What’s the catch?

Narrowing my eyes at her, I felt that she had an ulterior motive.

“Shannon Harper, you’d better come clean with me. What are you planning?”

“Nothing. I’m just gifting my best buddy a dress.”

As if I’d believe that excuse...

In the end, she succumbed to my pressure and revealed her true purpose. Shannon wanted me to accompany her to an eight-minute round table date later that day.

I rejected it right away.

In multiple ways, she continued to persuade me persistently, but I stood my ground.

She was still going at it after browsing through an entire row of shops whereas I had started to grow impatient.

“For the very last time, Shannon Harper, I’m not going. No means no.” I hated blind dates.

“Oh, come on, Liliana, come with me. Just this once. It’s my first time. I’d freak out if I go on my own.”

How can I dismiss this annoying lady?

“Shannon Harper! You...” Going ballistic, I wanted to give her a piece of my mind.

Yet, my words fell dead on my lips.

Standing in front of a bridal shop, I saw Dominic and Camille.

The latter was wearing a white tube dress. A blissful smile emerged on her face while she held Dominic’s arm.

I could not see his expression, but I bet he was as gleeful as Camille.

I recalled asking them to get married soon, but my heart wrenched in agony when I finally witnessed that moment.

“What’s wrong, Liliana? Why did you keep quiet all of a sudden?”

I trailed off, having nothing to say.

“Hey, isn’t that Dominic? Is he getting married?”

Instantly, I withdrew my gaze from the couple, held Shannon’s hand, and scurried away.

“Liliana.”

My body stiffened upon hearing my name. I did not look back but kept storming ahead.

The voice called out to me a few more times. I ignored it until someone pulled my arm in an opposite direction to stop me from going forward.

“Are you deaf? Camille has been calling you several times. Didn’t you hear her?” displeased, Dominic reprimanded me coldly.

Camille was panting. "Dominic, don't... don't be so fierce to Liliana. We're in a public area and my voice wasn't loud enough. I'm sure she didn't hear me, that's why she walked away."

The two of them looked like a match made in heaven; one was suited up while the other put on a silky white dress.

I smiled wryly. "You think too much. I simply didn't want to respond to you."

"Hey, don't get overboard, Liliana," Dominic chimed in.

I looked him in the eyes and replied, "Am I being too much? What are you going to do about it?"

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 109

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 109 An Eight Minutes Date

Dominic looked exceptionally serious. Each word that came out of his mouth was spoken with hostility toward me.

"Camille was too feeble to run after you, but she did so in order to catch up with you. Have you any consideration for her? Are you going to take full responsibility if anything happens to her?"

Camille can't run fast? What a joke! Then's who's that who challenged me for a race when we were schooling?

I mean, I can understand that you guys are tying the knot soon and you care for your wife. Why do you have to bring me into the picture and misjudge me?

"So, how does that have anything to do with me? Did I ask her to run after me? Moreover, does the law say that I must respond whenever someone calls my name? Is that your rule?"

Dominic's face was a mess as he glared at me as if he was ready to pounce on me and devour his prey.

Pushing him away, I growled, "Let me go!"

Not only did he not relinquish his grip, but he also went on to hold on ever more firmly. "Say sorry to Camille."

Enraged, I lifted my head. "Are you going to let me go?"

“Apologize,” he demanded, gritting his teeth.

In return, I sneered, “You want me to apologize to Camille, right? Sure. Camille, come over here.”

She hesitated before approaching me.

“Liliana, don’t fight with Dominic. I…”

Before she could finish her sentence, I raised my arm and landed a slap across her face.

Smack!

Camille froze. I could tell that she was not able to comprehend what had just happened.

The onlookers started gossiping and pointing their fingers at us three.

“Camille!” Out of a sudden, Dominic released his grip on me and hugged Camille.

I thought he wouldn’t let go? If he didn’t, I would continue slapping her.

Camille seemed to have found her much-needed moral support. Leaning on Dominic, she wept uncontrollably.

He patted her back gently, trying to console her. Then, he picked her up and carried her bridal style.

He stared daggers at me. “Liliana, I’ll settle the scores next time.”

Swinging my numb hand, I replied coldly, “Sure, I’m looking forward to it.”

With that, I held Shannon’s hand and pushed ourselves out of the crowd.

Do they think that I’m an easy target? In the future, I’ll not hesitate to throw heavier punches at them if Dominic dares to bully me with Camille.

He even wanted to get even? Come one, what is he trying to prove? I can go and get a man too.

“Shannon, regarding the eight-minute blind date you spoke about, what time does it start? Do we have enough time to doll ourselves up?”

“Huh?” Shannon was flabbergasted.

Impatiently, I repeated, "Hello? I'm asking you what time is our date? We've got to dress up since we're going."

Shannon was stunned for about two minutes and clapped her hands after regaining her senses. "That's the spirit! Let's get nicer clothes, glam up, and wow the dudes tonight! Here we go!"

Hence, we spent the rest of our afternoon having a makeover.

At eight in the evening, both of us wore our best and stood waiting in the lobby of Century Hyatt Hotel.

It was such a magnificent five-star hotel. Looks like the standards for the eight-minute blind date tonight are pretty high.

Being an amateur in this, Shannon briefly shared her experience with me.

It would be done at a round table, where eight males and females sat across each other.

Each person would have one minute to get to know the other person facing them. When the time was up, the men would switch seats. This would repeat until all participants had a quick conversation with every one of the opposite gender.

In the end, the singles were free to decide how they would want to take their newfound friendship further.

"Let's go in, it's time," Shannon urged.

I hummed in response and trailed behind her.

As we entered the private lounge, I realized that everyone was already there, leaving only two vacant seats.

There were actually five males and four ladies, including us. Four men were sitting around the table whereas the fifth one was sitting on the couch next to it.

"Two beauties, you're late. Don't forget to bottoms up later as a punishment," announced the man on the couch.

Shannon and I exchanged glances and took our seats as we nodded at everyone present.

Right then, that man spoke again, "Good evening ladies and gentlemen, it's fated for us all to gather here in this wonderful evening. I wish you all the best and hope that you can find true love within eight minutes."

I see... So, he's the host of the night.

After his opening speech, the timed conversations at the round table commenced.

Truth be told, I loathe this type of event, which I had joined by accident.

I've spoken to only two men and it feels like a lifetime. I can't stand it anymore.

Nonetheless, the guys seem pretty decent. One is in real estate while the other owns a magazine company.

I did not develop any infatuation with any of them. In fact, I wished that the clock would tick faster when I was interacting with them superficially.

Yes, I regretted my decision to come with Shannon.

I was rather quiet and gave them very short replies. Conversely, Shannon was like a social butterfly, chatting away with each new person met.

I've never thought that eight minutes are this long. Hang in there, we're down to the last guy now.

The last man on the table looked quite familiar, but I was certain that I did not know him.

He introduced himself, "Hi, I'm Royce Horton, thirty-two years old. I own a company."

"Liliana Zanetti, twenty-seven, a freelancer."

Those were the standard conversation starters.

I finally understood the essence of the eight-minute blind date. First, find out about the man's occupation to ascertain if he has a strong financial background. Second, check if he's pleasing to the eye.

Royce does have the looks.

When all the participants had met one another, we all had ten minutes of free time to exchange contact numbers or carry on the conversation.

Shannon seemed to be at the top of it. In a flash, two men approached her, seemingly interested.

I was quite distracted the entire night. Nobody looked for me during the free-and-easy.

Although I think Royce was a looker, I had no intention to pursue anything with him.

Among all of the people present, I was the only one who stood by the side with a blank expression on my face.

“Ms. Zanetti, do you mind giving me your number? Perhaps we can continue where we left off.”

Oh my heart! The request came as a surprise. Nonetheless, I was a little delighted.

I haven't lost my charm, have I? See, the only guy who passed my benchmark took the initiative to ask me for my number.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 110

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 110 Awakened In The Middle Of The Night

I would definitely refuse without saying a word if it was any Tom, Dick, and Harry asking me for my number.

However, that man was Royce, who really stood out from the group. After pondering for a while, I had decided to exchange numbers with him.

When the event ended, Shannon and I left Century Hyatt right away. We were chit-chatting about the night while waiting for our ride by the roadside.

Right then, a black Hummer pulled over. Startled, Shannon and I stopped talking.

Wondering who the bad driver was, I was cursing in my heart at his driving skills. Unexpectedly, Royce got out of the vehicle.

Luckily I kept my mouth shut. Otherwise, it'd be so awkward.

“Mr. Horton,” I greeted him with a smile.

He nodded. “Hi. I saw you two from afar. Are you trying to get a ride? It's going to be a challenge at this hour. If you don't mind, I can drive you home.”

I did not want to trouble him. Moreover, it was our first meeting and we hardly knew each other.

A little precaution won't hurt.

“Thanks for the thought, Mr. Horton, but we've engaged a driver. Our ride should be here in no time.”

Shrugging, he answered indifferently, "Okay, I'll get going then. See you around."

"Bye."

Watching him leave, Shannon pinched me on the waist and questioned, "We didn't call a car, did we? Why did you say no to a free ride?"

"Isn't he one of the dates? His name is... Royce Horton, right? Hmm... So, are you two planning on seeing each other?"

I quickly clarified, "He asked for my number and mentioned that we could keep in touch. He's pretty all right. Anyhow, I just got to know him, so I should think it's best to be wary of people. Who knows? He might turn out to be a jerk."

Shannon started getting all excited that her face was beaming. Caressing my head, she teased, "Oh my dear sweetheart, you've gotten smarter. I'm so proud of you that you're guarding against strangers now."

I slapped her wrist and pulled her hand away. "Get lost. I'm not as gullible as you think I am!"

"Haha, just admit it. Don't worry, I won't leave your side even if you're dumb."

Amused, I gestured to vomit and corrected her jokingly, "Don't be so cheesy, I'm getting goosebumps. I like men, okay? Don't you get the wrong idea!"

Shannon playfully wrapped her arms around me and refused to let me go, attracting unnecessary attention from the passersby.

We tried to hail a cab, but to no avail.

When I was ready to give up, a flashy red sports car stopped right in front of us.

To my surprise, the driver was none other than the president of Galaxy Corporation, James.

"Yo, ladies, what a coincidence!"

Tsk, tsk, tsk... Judging from his stylish outfit, alluring smell of cologne, and party vibe, he seems to be out on a hunt for pretty girls.

Well, I don't think that he needs to exert any effort in picking up girls. They will be attracted to him automatically as soon as they see his getup.

Just as I had predicted, a few sexy ladies approached him within minutes.

I had not seen him since the last incident when he partnered with Dominic and tricked me to show up at Galaxy Corporation.

Now that he had appeared in front of me again, I could not help but recall the ridiculous things that Dominic had done to me. It made me feel upset.

Shannon winked at him. “Mr. Dalton, what a pleasure to see you here. If you’re not too busy, why don’t you send us home?”

I elbowed Shannon. “Hey, I was about to engage a driver. His car is a two-seater, it won’t fit us three anyway.”

James got out of his car right away and said while snapping his fingers, “I’m glad to be at your service, gorgeous girls. Just give me a moment to get someone to send another car here.”

As soon as he finished saying that, he made a call. Within five minutes, an MPV arrived magically.

“Mr. Dalton, as per your request.”

James took over the keys and told us, “Get into the car, I’ll take you both home.”

We gladly accepted his kind gesture since he offered to be our chauffeur.

During the journey home, I was chatting softly with Shannon in the back seat. Suddenly, my phone vibrated.

It was a text message from Royce. Ms. Zanetti, have you arrived home safely?

I was quite astonished to receive such a sweet word of care from him.

Shannon leaned over, trying to take a peek at my phone screen. “Is that from Royce?”

“Yup.” I simply acknowledged.

I’m almost home, thanks for checking. I replied.

Then, he returned my message with a concise three words. Glad to know.

“He seems to be quite keen, huh? What do you guys talk about, Liliana?”

Keeping my phone in the bag, I took my time to answer her. “Just the standard stuff like our names, occupation, and age. What else can we talk about?”

Arching her brows, Shannon was dumbfounded. "And you've given him your number? That's new."

I tilted my head in thought. "He's seemingly nice and pleasing to the eye. He looks like someone I know."

"Who?" Shannon pursued further.

"I can't tell, but he looks really familiar at the very first glance."

She gasped. "Liliana, is that love at first sight?"

Rolling my eyes, I was almost rendered speechless. "What nonsense! Forget it, you won't be able to understand."

Sometimes I question how her brain functions. We're clearly not on the same page on this topic.

Out of the blue, James spoke up, "Which Royce are you referring to?"

Impatiently, I retorted, "Mind your own business and focus on the road."

Why is he asking so much? Does he even know him?

Thereafter, James remained silent and responsibly sent the both of us home respectively.

When I got back, I took a nice shower and snuggled up in bed.

I was annoyingly awakened by my ringing phone in the middle of the night.

I blew a fuse when I saw that it was from Dominic.

What the hell is he trying to do? Does he want to settle scores at this ungodly hour when people are sleeping soundly? Is he insane or what? I need my rest even if he doesn't!

Furious, I hung up on him and switched my phone off completely.

While I was trying to calm myself down and get back to sleep, I heard a loud and urgent pounding on the front door.

Having a bad feeling about it, I turned on the lights in my room and glanced at the phone that I had chucked aside.

What time is it? Is it two in the morning? Dominic can't possibly be this crazy to show up at this hour, right?