

## Love the Second Time Around Chapter 121

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 121 An Innocent Friendship

“Lili, don’t use your phone when we’re eating,” my dad said sharply.

I acknowledged his words and stopped typing, stuffing my phone back into my purse.

My dad must have been exhausted after his talk. After dinner, instead of chatting with Dominic like yesterday, he announced that he would go back to rest.

Before they left, we made plans to bring them around town the next day.

Dominic and I left for my place after that. On the drive home, Dominic got a call from Camille. I stewed silently in the passenger seat, acting like I was not there.

No matter how uncomfortable I felt about the situation, I made sure none of it showed in my expression.

Dominic was nothing if not a smooth-talker, appeasing Camille with barely a few words.

Once we got home, I took a shower and burrowed into my bed with my tablet.

I needed to get some work done on my comics. I had not drawn for two days, and my manuscript was due in a couple more days.

Before I got down to work, I suddenly remembered something. I set my tablet aside and sped for the living room, locating and swallowing a birth control pill.

I’ve got to remember to eat these from now on.

I returned to my bedroom and began drawing in earnest.

Dominic came in as I was absorbed in my work.

I stared at him for a few seconds before moving aside, leaving him some space to sit on the bed.

Instead of getting on the bed, Dominic snatched the tablet out of my hands. He pinned me down on the bed in the next instant.

Even as my body began responding to his touch, I stuttered in protest, “H-hey, let’s talk this through. Everything in moderation and all that, right? Don’t overexert yourself.”

His gaze darkened. "Is this your way of telling me that something's wrong with my virility?"

I almost bit my tongue at his crass remark. Oh God, I did not think things through.

"No, that's not what I meant. You're great, you know, and everything's fine. I'm always satisfied." I was this close to barfing at my cloying attempt to butter him up.

Dominic was chuffed to bits at my praise. His features relaxed immediately.

Catching on to what little headway I had made, I added, "I'm just concerned because we had a late night. You didn't get a good rest this morning, either. I don't want you to exhaust yourself. Let's sleep earlier tonight since we've got a full day ahead of us tomorrow."

He scrutinized me with interest in his eyes.

I went in for the kill. "We've got a long time ahead of us. There'll be plenty of chances in the future."

His lips curved into a smirk as he said, "Fine. You're off the hook tonight for being exceptionally sweet."

I heaved a sigh of relief. We'll see about it next time.

"Get off, then. You're heavy."

Dominic remained atop me.

My heart began pounding as fast as a runaway horse. Is he seriously breaking his promise right now?

"Dominic."

"I suddenly remembered that I had something to tell you. If you ever get involved with Nicholas again, I'll make you pay."

Stunned, I explained, "Nicholas and I are just friends."

He pinched me viciously in response. Sucking in my breath at the pain, I yelped. "It hurts."

A cruel smile greeted me, followed by a sharp bite on my shoulder.

I heard him continue, "You're claiming to be just friends when you've slept together? I don't care about your relationship with him in the past, but now that I'm in the picture, don't you dare seek him out again."

I frowned and muttered, "We were always friends from the beginning. I've never slept with him—"

Dominic tilted my chin toward him and stared intently at him. "What did you say?"

Initially, I planned to ignore his question. After some thought, however, I decided that it was in my best interests to be honest with him. He might be gentler toward me if he knows the truth.

Dominic was not a prude, and I had lost my virginity to him. Though he would not be surprised if I had slept with other men, I knew that he was a possessive man.

Somehow, I was confident that if he knew about the true nature of my relationship with Nicholas, he would be over the moon.

Won't I have an easier time of it if he's happy?

Hence, I confessed, "Nothing romantic has ever happened between Nicholas and me. I've never dated him, nor have I slept with him."

As expected, Dominic was overjoyed. A wide smile appeared on his face.

Bingo.

His joy also revealed his selfish hypocrisy.

When Dominic told me to go to bed, I told him I wanted to draw one more panel for my comic. He must have been in a great mood since he agreed immediately.

It was a wonderful and uneventful night.

We got up early the next day, and I felt thoroughly recharged after a good night's rest.

Since we had time to spare, I whipped up two bowls of instant ramen for breakfast. Dominic had always suffered from gastric problems, and I did not want him to go starving.

After breakfast, we headed to the hotel to pick up my parents. We toured several places of attractions in Lightspring and treated them to some local delicacies.

I could tell that my parents enjoyed themselves that day.

Rather pettily, I called Louis and gloated about how much fun we had had.

Louis flung accusations of abandonment at us through the phone.

Just then, Dominic stepped forward and grabbed my phone. He told Louis to visit Lightspring on his next holiday, promising to cover all his expenses.

That little brat was so happy he began calling Dominic his brother-in-law.

How I wished I could knock some sense into Louis' head. How can he sell me out after a little bit of bribery from Dominic?

My parents stayed in Lightspring for five days. Dominic and I ferried them around town whenever my dad was not giving a talk.

Truthfully, I was bewildered. I wondered what sort of tale Dominic had spun to Camille, which allowed him to spend five days away without her calling him every five minutes to check in on him.

If it were me, I would have expired from separation anxiety. Though I was hardly a clingy partner, if my boyfriend spent five days away from me without a peep, I would go mad.

Dominic continued bunking with me for days after my parents had already left. I thought he would be gone by now, but he acted like a plant that had taken root and refused to leave.

One day, I was drawing while he was in the shower when reality came knocking in the form of a WhatsApp message.

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 122**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 122 Acting Guilty

I checked my phone, almost dropping it when I saw who the sender was.

It was a text from Royce from my blind date.

I could not help but feel like I was cheating on him.

In his text, Royce mentioned that he had not contacted me because he had been away on a business trip. He followed that up with an invitation to chat the next day.

Chat? About what? Dominic's warning remained at the forefront of my mind. If he knew about Royce's existence, I would be dead meat.

I stared at the doorway guiltily as if expecting Dominic to materialize at any moment. I tapped out a reply to Royce hastily.

I'm sorry, but we shouldn't keep in touch anymore. I've got a boyfriend now.

After I sent out the text, I sighed in relief.

Royce merely replied, Alright.

Just then, footsteps sounded outside the bedroom. I quickly erased Royce's conversation history and buried my phone under my pillow. To complete my act of innocence, I pretended to be absorbed in drawing.

Dominic's senses were, however, razor-sharp.

The minute he got on the bed, he pulled me into his arms and gazed at me inquisitively. "You seem nervous. Feeling guilty about something?"

My heart was about to leap out of my throat at that point. Still, I thought I put on a rather convincing act of nonchalance as I replied, "You're the one who is guilty."

He began toying with a strand of my hair as he commented, "That'd better be the case. Liliana, you know the consequences."

My eyelids twitched before I could muster a brownnosing smile. "Of course not. There's nothing for you to discover."

Dominic pressed me into the bed and got down to business.

I did not know if the frequency of our lovemaking had made a difference, but I had grown more and more sensitive to his touch. A few teases were all it took to turn me into a quivering ball of lust.

At the same time, Dominic had become more wicked in bed. He would tease me until I was burning with desire and immediately stop his movements, waiting for me to beg for relief.

I had tried a few times to resist begging him, but that only resulted in more punishing teases.

Since I could not outlast him, I learned my lesson and played along. It would eventually work out in my favor anyway.

Dominic's energy was a thing of mystery to him. Even after making love through the wee hours of the night, I was the one who felt utterly spent while he managed to get himself to work early every morning.

That afternoon, I had been shopping at a supermarket when Dominic called me. I almost screamed out of glee at the news he told me. At last, he was no longer staying at my place.

Thank God! The heavens must've heard my prayers!

Every night Dominic spent in my house meant another day of walking around on sore legs. I had been dreaming of the day he would finally leave.

I could finally sleep peacefully and alone tonight.

My shopping speed increased exponentially with my glee.

I even tossed some extra bags of snacks into my shopping cart for good measure. As I reveled in my mini-celebration, I heard someone call my name.

Turning around, I realized that it was Royce. Wow, what a coincidence.

"Ms. Zanetti, I see you're doing grocery shopping as well."

Royce did not seem stilted or awkward as he greeted me. I returned his greeting and replied, "Yes. I'm running out of groceries."

We fell into awkward silence soon after.

Royce broke the tension first by saying, "I'm busy, so I'll make a move. Enjoy your shopping."

I nodded hastily and waved goodbye at him.

His departure filled me with relief. Dominic's constant threats were nothing if not effective at instilling fear in me.

Why am I worrying so much? I bumped into Royce out of coincidence, and Dominic's not here either. I should hurry home after shopping.

Without Dominic around, I slept like a log.

His absence lasted about a week.

He must be busy with Camille; after all, she's his fiancée. He should be spending more time with her after rendezvousing with me. Though how he manages to keep the fiancée satisfied with a lover in tow, I will never know.

Shannon came knocking bright and early on Sunday morning, dragging me out of my bed.

I yawned in exhaustion, struggling to open my eyes after rushing a manuscript last night.

"Shannon, don't disturb me. All I want is to veg out in bed. Go have fun yourself."

"It's so boring to go alone. You should come with me! You can catch up on your sleep once we arrive," Shannon whined and shook my elbow.

I stopped her and wailed, "Stop shaking me. I'm so dizzy. Wait, why are you going there again?"

She giggled. "Do you remember the man I met on my blind date? He invited me along, and I want you to go with me."

My brain pounded as I stared at her. "Oh, do you like him? Are you trying to take things further?"

"Maybe, maybe not. Hey, you should invite Royce too. We're going to a resort anyway. The more, the merrier, right? You can get to know him a little better as well."

At the mention of Royce, I waved my arms in protest. "No thanks. Royce and I are old news."

Confusion flashed through Shannon's features. "Why not? Didn't you get along well at the blind date?"

"We only talked once at the blind date; why would you call that getting along well?"

She seemed to have more questions, and I cut in hastily, "Stop digging into my business if you still want a traveling partner to that resort or whatever it is."

Shannon immediately lifted her arms in surrender and said, "Ok, I zip my lips."

And that was how Shannon single-handedly destroyed my dream of sleeping in on the weekend.

I slept the entire journey to the resort, only waking up after Shannon poked me once we arrived.

Stretching lazily, I asked, "How many people are there?"

"I didn't ask, but there should be a small crowd."

I could not help but roll my eyes at her. "How trusting of you. What if this was all a front for a trafficking scheme?"

At my sarcasm, Shannon clung to my elbow and said, "Stop being so melodramatic; come on, let's explore this place."

I allowed Shannon to drag me into the resort. We had barely taken a few steps when I heard a familiar voice behind me.

## Love the Second Time Around Chapter 123

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 123 Another Coincidence

I felt it was a familiar voice. As I turned my head, I saw Royce, who had just gotten out of his car. He was just a few steps behind us.

"Ms. Zanetti, what a coincidence again. Are you here for the banquet too?"

I had no idea what he was talking about, and I could barely care. Nevertheless, it was such a coincidence to run into him again.

When we were departing in the morning, Shannon asked me to invite Royce, but I rejected. Who would have thought he would be here?

As I was still hesitating how to reply to him, Shannon had opened her mouth.

"We're invited by our friends, the one who asked us out last time. Mr. Horton, if you are not busy tonight, you can come over and have fun with us."

I immediately cut Shannon a glare. How could you invite others if you have not figured out the situation?

With that, Royce flashed back a courteous smile. "Sure, I'll stop by if I have time."

Upon hearing that, Shannon's grin grew wider. She pointed at me and told Royce to find me if he arrived later.

I was rendered speechless by her gesture, as I knew what she was planning. It looked like she had forgotten what I told her in the morning.



At that moment, my mind was trying hard to find an excuse to leave with her. But before I could open my mouth, Royce answered a call and left abruptly after that.

As soon as Royce left the scene, I started observing Shannon's expression closely. I suspected if she was the one who invited Royce over secretly.

Noticing my suspicious expression, she immediately shook her head innocently.

"Don't look at me like that. I didn't invite him."

I leaned close to her face sternly. "Are you sure it wasn't you?"

With that, Shannon lifted her right hand firmly. "I swear it wasn't me."

Standing up, I scoffed indifferently and gave her a warning. It's impossible between Royce and me.

Grabbing my arms tightly, Shannon did not seem to take my words seriously. "How will you know if you don't try? We did not invite him, yet you guys bump into each other. Who knows, maybe the two of you are meant to be together? Sometimes we have to believe in destiny..."

Listening to her talking such nonsense, I could not help but stop her abruptly.

"Shannon, I thought you wanted me to be with Nicholas, as you kept mentioning him to me. And now there's Royce. Have you changed your mind?"

Shannon's following words pissed me off. "It's like this, Liliana. Even though we are good friends, after I gave it a good thought, I figure it's such a waste to give Nicholas to you. After all, one should never stick a flower into cow dung."

I patted her back vigorously and yelled, "What're you saying now? Who's the flower, and who's the cow dung?"

"Ouch! Please have mercy on me. It's painful!" Shannon let out a cry.

I feigned her an angry look. "You're the one who insults me first. Shannon, how could you neglect your friend when smitten with a new love?"

She was not at all embarrassed by my statement, yet she spoke confidently, "It's not that I neglect our friendship, but I know how to appreciate real beauty."

I almost vomit, disgusted by how narcissistic she was.

After taking a short walk around the resort, I started to feel sleepy. Right at that moment, the man who invited Shannon called.

Judging by her speaking tone on the phone, it seemed like she was genuinely interested in the other party.

After hanging up the phone, Shannon signaled me to go back to the resort's entrance; seemingly, he was waiting for us there.

While we were still ten feet away from the entrance, I spotted a man standing there.

I pushed Shannon slightly and asked her if he was the one. She nodded with a shy smile.

By that time, that man saw us too and he started walking towards us.

His gesture added merit to my heart, as he did not look like a prideful domineering man.

After he came near us, I finally recognized his face from the last date. His name was Quinn, but I could not remember what his occupation was.

The first word that came out of his mouth was an apology, as he did not fetch us here.

Nonetheless, Shannon was not the type of woman that would mind such details. With that, she smiled casually and started introducing him to me.

I remembered the name correctly, and it turned out he owned a company doing landscape design.

In fact, part of the natural landscape inside this resort was done by his company.

Later, Quinn sent us to a room. He told us that he had a brief company meeting to catch, and he would come to find us again after that.

After closing the door, Shannon eagerly turned to me and inquired about my impression of him.

Honestly, I felt he was alright. He had this gentleman's kind of look, and the way he talked was polite and humorous at the same time. In conclusion, my impression was much better compared to the last date.

Right then, both of us lay down on the bed as I yawned. "Shannon, it looks like both of you are getting along well. Later, when he comes, you go out with him alone. I'm sleepy now. So you can leave me out."

Shannon did not seem to agree. "Don't tell me you come all the way here to sleep. You rest now, and I'll wake you up later."

With that, I dozed off in a matter of seconds, as I was really exhausted.

Nonetheless, I felt I got woken up in the blink of an eye.

I opened my eyes reluctantly and saw a blurred figure wandering slowly in front of me.

“Liliana, are you up? Quinn has just called.”

I tossed my body, still feeling dizzy. “Please go without me. I’ll join you later.”

Upon saying that, I went on to sleep again. I was not sure what Shannon’s response was, and I could barely remember.

However, a moment later, my sleep was interrupted by a call. Taking a glance at my phone, I was frustrated to see it was Dominic.

Utterly displeased, I sounded agitated. “What is it? I’m sleeping.”

On the other end, Dominic spoke in a composed manner. “Why are you sleeping at such an hour? Where are you?”

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 124 How Does He Know

I did not think much and told him the whole story about how Shannon and I ended up in the resort.

A moment later, Dominic let out a chuckle. “Thanks for being honest.”

Upon hearing that, I was stunned momentarily, as he sounded like he already knew where I was.

As I was trying to clear my thought, I heard him speaking again. “Open the door now.”

“The door? Which door?” I could not wrap my head around it.

He asked me back with a hint of teasing in his tone. “What do you think?”

Sitting up on my bed, my eyes locked on the door of my room. Does he mean this door?

Hesitating for a moment, I heard Dominic impatiently tone again. "Hurry up. Are you asleep again?"

Only then did I come back to my sense. Jumping down from my bed, I ran towards the door.

I opened the door swiftly and saw Dominic standing outside with a wide grin on his face.

"Hi."

He waved at me and entered the room as though it was his house.

Stunned momentarily, I abruptly closed the door and began interrogating him. "How did you know I'm here?"

Before he could answer, I let out a suspicious scream. "You're stalking me!"

"Do I need to do that?"

Dominic shot me a disdainful glance.

With that, I furrowed my brows. "Then, how did you find this place?"

Right then, he leaned lazily on the bed. "Stop flattering yourself. I didn't come here purposely to find you. I'm here for work, and I ran into Shannon coincidentally."

So Shannon was the one who told you the room number.

Upon hearing that, I got even more confused as I thought Shannon detested Dominic. She had told me numerous times to forget about him.

I could not figure out why she would give him our room number.

At that instant, my phone on the bed suddenly rang. It was Shannon.

Right after I picked up the phone, she uttered excitedly, "Liliana, guess who I met just now?"

She did not give me the chance to reply while she kept on talking. "I met Dominic at the party. But I did not talk to him. Liliana, you should stay in your room. Or else you might run into that jack\*ss."

I froze on my spot. "You said you didn't talk to him?"

Shannon replied firmly, "Yeah. I didn't want to ruin the party. If I weren't with Quinn, I fear I would have approached Dominic and slapped him in his face."

So if Shannon did not tell Dominic the room number, how the h\*ll did he know which room I was in?

Before I could figure it out, Shannon spoke again, "By the way, he was with a beauty. I wonder who's that next victim of his."

A beauty. The first guess that came to my mind was Camille.

With that, I instinctively cast Dominic a glance. So the two of them came to work together.

"Liliana, listen to me and stay in your room. Quinn's here. I'm hanging up now."

"Alright, I got it."

Hanging up the phone, I stared at Dominic rigidly. "Shannon did not tell you our room number."

Upon hearing that, Dominic shrugged his shoulder indifferently. "I didn't say it was her."

I regarded him with suspicion. Why is he constantly beating around the bush and never getting to the point?

"I know the man that's with Shannon. I got the number from him."

Dominic replied casually, but I was left in befuddlement. How the h\*ll did he know Quinn too?

Just then, a thought came to my mind. Since Shannon is serious about getting into a relationship with Quinn, maybe I should ask Dominic about Quinn, trying to know him better.

With that, I decided to play nice with Dominic. I walked over and sat beside him. "So, are you close with Quinn? What is he like?"

Dominic looked at me with a half-smile on his face. "Are you curious about him?"

I nodded right away, eager to get some information from Dominic. "A little. Just tell me what you know about him."

Even though I knew I should not blindly believe everything that others said, I guessed Dominic would probably not be lying in this matter.

Yet, he was staring at me without saying anything. What does he want?

I impatiently pushed him a few times. "Speak now...Ouch! Dominic!"

Before I could react, he leaned towards me and bit my lips.

Beyond exasperated, I shouted, "Are you a dog? Why did you bite me?"

A second later, he charged towards me again. I responsively leaned backward and covered my mouth with both hands.

The next second, my whole body fell onto the bed.

Grabbing the timing ideally, Dominic pressed me down with his hands. I panicked and started blocking him with my hands.

This room belonged to Shannon and me. Thus, I would not want anything shameful to happen here.

At that moment, I was confounded. Weren't we talking about Quinn? How did it become like this?

"Please behave yourself. I merely want to know about Quinn. Let's talk properly, okay?"

At that instant, Dominic's eyes flashed with a hint of envy. "Why do you keep mentioning Quinn? Are you interested in him? I thought Shannon's with him. Are you trying to betray your good friend?"

I was at a loss. What nonsense is he talking about?

"Are you out of your mind? How could I possibly be interested in him? I'm asking for Shannon's sake as I want to know if he's a good man."

I really could not comprehend how Dominic's brain worked.

To my puzzlement, Dominic suddenly let go of me and stood up.

"Quinn's not a good person. You'd better warn Shannon to keep her distance from him."

Upon hearing that, I jumped out from the bed and grabbed his arm. "Are you serious? Is he a bad person?"

"Believe it or not, it's up to you. I'm leaving now. I still have another errand. Liana, you'd better stay here and don't wander around."

Dominic left the room abruptly upon finishing his sentence.

Enraged, I threw a pillow towards the closed door.

D\*mn it! How could you come and leave as you like? What errand is so urgent? It's just Camille.

After collecting myself for a while, I figured I should give Shannon a warning call about Quinn.

The moment I picked up my phone, I received a message.

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 125**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 125 Memory From Old Days

It was a message from Royce asking for our whereabouts. He said that he had finished his work and could come to fetch us now.

I was about to reject him, but the scene of Dominic and Camille holding hands appeared in my mind the next moment.

Since Shannon had gone out with Quinn, I figured it was reasonable that I invited another friend.

Hence, I changed my mind and replied to Royce's message immediately.

"Wait for me at the lobby."

"Okay." Royce's reply came in a second later.

I swiftly tidied myself up and left the room with my phone and the key card.

On the way down, I called Shannon asking her to meet me in the lobby.

I intended to find her in person, but I feared running into Dominic and Camille.

It was not because I feared it would be awkward, but I felt whenever I met Camille, something terrible would happen.

As soon as I got out of the elevator, Shannon and Quinn walked out of another elevator too.



I immediately waved at them.

Shannon saw me and pulled me to a corner while whispering. "Why do you come out? Didn't I tell you that Dominic and that woman are here?"

I knew Shannon was concerned that I might be sad to see Dominic with Camille. Nonetheless, it was not good timing for me to tell her that Dominic had come to our room.

On the other hand, I did not plan to tell her about my dirty secrets with Dominic.

Hence, I displayed an unconcerned expression and tried to ditch the topic.

"It's fine. It's none of my business. After all, this resort is so huge."

Quinn waited for us to finish our conversation before he walked over to join us.

Initially, I felt he was a nice guy. But after what Dominic told me, everything about Quinn seemed wrong to me.

I was unsure if it was my misconception towards him, but his smile looked fake to me.

By the time I was trying to brush Quinn off, Royce had arrived at the resort.

At that moment, Shannon secretly pulled my shirt. I knew what she was implying, but I did not respond.

As I did not tell her that I was the one who invited Royce, I understood why she was acting so agitated.

Honestly, I did not have any intention other than pure antagonism towards Dominic.

As Dominic had asked me to stay obediently in the room, I deliberately wanted to do the exact opposite.

After all, I only dared to stand up to him in such a discrete manner. If I were to confront him face to face, I would most probably flee in fright.

At first, I wanted to introduce Royce and Quinn to each other out of courtesy. But before I realized it, the two of them had already engaged in a conversation.

Looking at their relaxed gesture while chatting, I nearly believed that they had known each other for a long time.

While I was still trying to comprehend the situation, Shannon opened her mouth. "If you two want to chat, at least find a place to sit down. Do you expect two ladies to stand here waiting for you?"

Upon hearing that, the two men stopped their conversation and apologized with embarrassment.

Royce suggested that we go to the music bar inside the resort. He said that there would be some event at night. Thus, it would be happening.

Shannon and I were interested, as we did not have anywhere else to go.

As such, four of us headed towards the music bar.

Before we reached the bar, we could already see some blazing lights from afar, and the noises of the crowd caught our ears.

Arriving at the bar entrance, we realized it was more like a bonfire party.

A huge bonfire was lit up in the middle of the open space outside while pairs of men and women were dancing wildly around the fire.

At that very moment, such a bonfire reminded me of the past.

It was the summer break during high school when the school organized a summer trip that I joined.

During the last night of the trip, it was a bonfire party exactly like this one.

At that time, I was sad because I was going to part with Dominic for more than two months.

We would be in the final year after that summer break, supposedly the year where most couples broke up.

With that concern in mind, I ended up offering myself to Dominic that very night after guarding my virginity for years.

It was the most unforgettable night in my life.

It was so many years ago, yet the memory was still able to make me solemn. Even though everyone on the scene was excited about the bonfire, my mood was ruined completely.

Seeing Shannon having a great time, I did not want to spoil her night. Thus, I tried hard to disguise my sorrow.

I thought of going back to the room by myself, but remembering what Dominic said about Quinn, I was not willing to leave Shannon alone with him.

In the end, I stayed with them.

I tried to join in the bonfire dance. But after going around the fire a few times, my body could not take it anymore.

I did not realize when my body had aged to this extent.

At that moment, I noticed Shannon panting heavily, too, even though she was enjoying it. Hence, I decided to pull her out and grab a drink.

Spotting the two of us leaving the dance, Royce and Quinn came to join us too.

They accompanied us to our seats, but they did not sit down, as they decided to buy some food and drinks for us.

Shannon waited for the men to leave before she opened her mouth. "Liliana, listen to me. Royce seems like a nice guy. Why don't you give it a shot? After all, there's nothing to lose."

I was lost for words at that instant. I wanted to talk to her about Quinn, yet she initiated the topic towards me.

"Forget about me. Maybe you should think twice about Quinn since you've only known him for not long. Who knows he's a wolf in sheep's clothing?"

Hearing that, Shannon burst into laughter. "A wolf in sheep's clothing. You're so funny."

I petulantly responded, "I'm not joking with you."

"Alright, alright. I'll remember that. I'll keep an eye."

Feeling helpless, I figure I should probably find Dominic to talk about this matter another time. It was best if I could get some proof.

Right at that moment, Shannon suddenly grabbed my arm and shook forcefully. "Liliana, look over there!"

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 126**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 126 Is He Your New Boyfriend

Puzzled as to the sight that was making Shannon so worked up, I curiously looked in the direction she was pointing.

Hmm? Isn't that Dominic and Camille?

They were chatting while watching the group of people dancing around the bonfire. It seemed that they hadn't spotted Shannon and me yet.

I wasn't in the mood to deal with Camille's pretentiousness or fight with her, much less watch her being all lovey-dovey with Dominic.

Thus, I reached out to pull Shannon away, but she had already rolled up her sleeves in preparation of charging forward to brawl with them.

I swiftly grabbed her and demanded, "What are you trying to do? Are you planning to beat them up?"

"Yes, I'm planning to beat them up, alright! I'm even going to find a rod and wallop them until they beg me for mercy!"

Torn between amusement and exasperation, I chided, "Stop messing around. Look at your petite stature. Considering your puny strength, Dominic can crush you with just one finger."

Shannon thumped me on the back in chagrin and huffily retorted, "Why are you disparaging yourself and lauding others? I'm trying to stand up for you!"

"I'm just worried that you'll be hurt," I hastily mollified her with a smile. "Alright, let's just ignore them and leave. They're no one important anyway."

As I said that, I tugged at Shannon, eager to leave so that we could look for Royce and Quinn.

Another reason for my urgency in leaving was my worry that Dominic would see Royce when the latter returned.

Alas, Murphy's law always applied when it came to the very thing one dreaded.

Tugging Shannon up with me, we got to our feet. But before we could even take a step away, Camille was already heading our way with her hand on Dominic's arm.

As usual, she wore a mask of harmlessness with a tender smile on her face. Meanwhile, Dominic appeared calm and unruffled.

I've truly got to give it to him for being so unflappable while his fiancée and... well, lover... bumped into each other. He's probably the only man who can maintain his composure in such a situation.

“Liliana, I just told Dom that I seemed to have caught sight of you. Unexpectedly, it’s really you! What a coincidence that we actually met here!”

Irrked, I closed my eyes for a moment. A coincidence, my foot! She’s the one who simply has to pester me endlessly!

She put on an act every single time I met her, so I had long since grown tired of it. This time, I ignored her altogether and spun around to leave with Shannon.

However, as soon as I turned around, I saw that Royce and Quinn were back.

All at once, I stiffened as a sense of impending doom assailed me.

Shannon shook off my hand and trotted over to them. Then, she took them by the hand and strode back.

Oh God, I’m dead! She pushed Royce over to me and glowered provocatively at Dominic. “Don’t think that you can still bully Liliana like before! She now has someone to back her up and protect her!” she declared.

Putting aside the fact that she was spouting nonsense, Royce abruptly reached out and pulled me closer to him. In the next moment, I realized that he was using his body to block me from Dominic’s line of sight.

It was just an insignificant move, but I suddenly shuddered under Dominic’s placid scrutiny.

Worse still, I even broke into a cold sweat at his cold stare though he didn’t say a single word.

Just then, Camille dropped her hand from his arm out of the blue and came up to me with a sweet smile.

She took my hand and exclaimed exuberantly, “Is he your new boyfriend, Liliana? He seems a perfect match for you! Aren’t you going to introduce him?”

At that point, Dominic spoke up all of a sudden as though he was very much interested.

With an unfathomable smile hovering over his lips, he languidly questioned, “Boyfriend? Then, you really ought to introduce him.”

A chill struck me, and I almost bit my tongue. The look in Dominic’s eyes as he regarded me then was truly too grim that terror ricocheted within me.

Before I could say anything, Shannon stretched out a hand and pushed Camille away. She shielded me behind her back as though she was a mother hen protecting her chick. Then, she thrust a finger into Camille's face and started berating her.

"What has it got to do with you whether Liliana has a boyfriend? Why? Are you planning to steal her boyfriend a second time after having done so once? I've seen too many women like you, but none as shameless as you are! You're not even afraid that your face will rot off when you're wearing a mask and putting on an act every moment of every day!"

Camille's face flushed bright red, and I knew from the way she kept twisting her fingers that she was on the verge of blowing her gasket.

Alas, she couldn't do so if she wanted to maintain her kind and innocent facade.

As I looked on, utter glee suffused me.

"And you!" Shannon turned on Dominic as she continued chewing them out. "Are you blind? Never mind if you don't like Liliana, but you should find someone better than her at least. Yet, you ended up with such a witch despite having your pick of women. What horrible taste!"

To tell the truth, I completely agreed with Shannon's reproach. But at the sight of Dominic's dark and chilly expression, I didn't dare express my concurrence.

Afraid that he would teach Shannon a lesson out of anger, I hurriedly tugged at her even as I was gripped by the urge to clamp a hand over her mouth.

However, Shannon was plainly hooked on tearing into them. She danced around and dodged my hand, simply refusing to stop hauling them over the coals.

I wasn't certain whether Camille was putting on an act or otherwise, but she was now sobbing at Shannon's condemnation. Turning, she burrowed into Dominic's embrace.

Seeing that, I curled my lips without saying anything.

With a hand against Camille's back, Dominic eyed me coldly, his gaze brimming with menace.

A few words that seemed to be coated in frost proceeded to fall from his mouth. "Boyfriend? You have someone backing you up, huh? Well, well... That's good. Excellent, in fact."

Hearing that, I shuddered.

Good and excellent, he said? He's clearly threatening me now! And the emphasis on backing me up... Darn it! I've really got to pray hard and thank my lucky stars if he doesn't back me into a corner and torment me relentlessly!

After saying that, he then left with his arm around Camille, who was now weeping aloud.

Shannon snorted loudly in the direction they went before turning to me and consoling me.

Likewise, Royce looked at me with concern in his eyes though he seemed hesitant to speak.

Nevertheless, I merely pretended as though I didn't see his look lest I gave him the wrong idea. That wouldn't be fair to him, after all.

As for Quinn... His reaction was truly odd, for he said nary a word from beginning to end.

After that incident, we didn't continue taking in the sights but returned to our respective rooms.

When Shannon had gone to shower, the front desk suddenly phoned and claimed that they found something of mine, asking me to go down and retrieve it.

Upon hearing that, I was taken aback for a moment. Hmm? I don't think I lost anything.

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 127**

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 127 Are You Jealous

I was skeptical, but since the front desk had made a call, I decided to go and check it out. After informing Shannon, I then left the room.

While waiting for the elevator, I recalled Dominic's incensed expression when he left. All at once, my heart clenched.

Perhaps I should go back to my parents' house and stay for a day or two until he calms down...

Just while I was contemplating that, a ding heralded the arrival of the elevator.

But when the elevator doors slowly opened, my calf started cramping as Dominic's smiling face came into view. I stood there dumbfounded, unable to move for a long time.

Crap! Why the h\*ll am I so unlucky? I was just ruminating about avoiding him, yet I've bumped into him in the next second! Ugh! Why on earth is he not keeping Camille company at this hour but wandering around instead?

"Haha, what a coincidence! Where are you going?" As Dominic said that, he even helped to hold the elevator for me.

Snapping back to my sense, I blurted, "Oh, I'm not going anywhere. I just walked past, so please excuse me."

"Liliana."

Right after I turned around, I heard Dominic enunciating my name in an ominous voice.

Hearing that, I froze at once. My legs started disobeying me, and I couldn't even take a single step forward despite my brain urging me to flee quickly.

Frustrated, I inwardly cursed myself out for being so such a coward.

"Are you waiting for me to go over and escort you?"

When I heard that, I forced myself to turn back around. My footsteps were so heavy that it was a miracle I didn't dent the ground with every single step.

Seeing that I had entered the elevator, Dominic dropped his hand from the button and leaned back against the elevator wall languidly.

After the elevator doors closed, I leaned against the elevator wall where the keypad was situated.

Upon noticing that none of the buttons were lit, my heart immediately skipped a beat.

Don't tell me he deliberately came to look for me? My expression turned sullen. But isn't this too soon? He should just put it on my tab and settle the score with me later.

I swiftly pressed the button for the first floor before remaining motionless against the elevator wall. Although the elevator was rather spacious, I still wanted to keep a distance from him.

Nonetheless, my avoidance was of no use since Dominic had already leaned over himself.

Extending a hand, he propped it beside me to trap me between him and the elevator wall.



I lifted my hands and shoved at him as his warm exhale was now brushing against my face.

However, it was obviously ineffective, for he continued pinning me without moving an inch.

Then, he murmured with a fake smile, "You're going to the first floor? I thought you were going to seek out that boyfriend of yours who can back you up. Or is he currently waiting for you on the first floor? Do you two have plans for a romantic night out?"

Clocking the faint murderous undertone in his words, I didn't dare hesitate for even a moment. I instantly explained, "I lost something, so the front desk phoned me to go down and retrieve it. Also, Royce isn't my boyfriend. Don't listen to Shannon's nonsense, for she was merely joking."

"Royce?" the man drawled. "What an intimate address. Are you very close with him?"

At his remark, I almost choked on my saliva. Argh! He's doing this deliberately, no? That's his name, so how is it intimate?

Nonetheless, I promptly replied, "No, not at all."

Still, Dominic continued asking persistently, "So, why are you calling him by his name if you're not close with him?"

I threw him a strange look, for such a conversation felt truly familiar.

Before I started dating him, he always appeared cool and arrogant every time I saw him. In fact, he seemed particularly aloof.

After I started dating him, however, I realized that he was actually a stubborn man who was prone to being jealous over the smallest thing.

Once, a male coursemate asked someone to ask me out shortly after we had made our relationship official. He gave me flowers and confessed to me below my dormitory, but Dominic happened to come by just then.

I directly rejected the coursemate right before him and left with him.

Not wanting him to misunderstand, I voluntarily explained things to him. I told him it was a coursemate I wasn't all that close with, and it was someone else who asked me out today. I also asserted that I wouldn't have turned up had I known the purpose of the meeting.

He asked me the exact same question back then, demanding to know why I was referring to my coursemate by name if I wasn't close with him.

At first, I felt that he was a tad unreasonable. But when I later realized that he was jealous, I was actually quite thrilled.

After all, jealousy meant that he cared about me. Thus, I uttered a whole load of saccharine words to flatter him.

Later, he even proclaimed domineeringly that I wasn't to simply address another man by name, saying that a simple "hey" was more than enough.

At that time, I felt that he was truly handsome. I was so mesmerized that I lost my heart to him.

He's actually asking me the same question now? What does that mean? Is he jealous?

I stared intently into his eyes and inquired hopefully, "Are you jealous, Dominic?"

Dominic seemed a touch surprised that I was asking such a question, his expression freezing for a moment. But in the next second, he murmured in amusement, "Jealous? You think too highly of yourself. I just want to remind you that you're now my woman, so stop flirting around."

I ducked my head as a bitter smile bloomed on my face.

Ah well, why did I just have to make things difficult for myself when I know full well that he no longer has any feelings for me? I really shouldn't let my imagination run wild. I'm now his lover, and our relationship will only last until he gets married.

Despite that... I still couldn't help the waves of disappointment that washed over me.

"Liliana, you'd better mark my words earlier. You know that I've got a short temper."

I glared at him morosely. The elevator arrived on the first floor right that moment, so I just pushed him away and stalked out without responding to him.

Da\*n you, Dominic Hartnell! Are you the only one with a short temper? I'll have you know that I'm not all that patient either!

I stormed up to the front desk furiously and related the phone call I received. The receptionist then came out from behind the desk, saying that the person who picked up something of mine was waiting at the lounge, so she would lead me over right away.

As the receptionist led the way, Dominic and I followed behind her.

"Why are you following me? I told you that I'm coming down to retrieve something of mine, so you don't have to worry that I'll go and look for R... another man. I'm going back to my room right after," I huffed.

“What do you care? This is a public space, so what can you do about that?”

Annoyed, I ignored him and started mulling over other things.

Now that I think about it, it's really bizarre. How can the person who found something of mine be so certain that it's mine? I checked my things before coming down, so I know for sure that both my purse and cell phone are still there.

“Ms. Zanetti, that's the lady who found something of yours.”

As my eyes followed the direction in which the receptionist was pointing, my head instantly started pounding.

## Love the Second Time Around Chapter 128

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 128 Let Me Remind You

Well? I just knew it! I only brought a small handbag here this time, so I've got nothing else besides my cell phone, purse, and keys. Found something of mine? Hah! From the looks of it now, it's merely a petty trick of Camille's by making some deliberate excuse to get me to meet with her! I always thought that she had no self-awareness, but that doesn't seem to be the case. At least, she knows that I would never entertain her if she were to seek me out directly. Anyway, this is quite an interesting turn of events. Are she and Dominic trying to hem me in?

I snapped my head to Dominic and demanded, “What's the meaning of this? One of you lies in wait for me while the other coerces me to meet?”

Dominic, however, frowned. “I didn't know that Camille would seek you out.”

He doesn't know, he said? Hmph! What a joke!

Curling my lips, I spat, “Whatever! Go and deal with her. I'm going back to my room.”

Nonetheless, Dominic grabbed me. At that, my brows furrowed, and I impatiently snapped, “What now? Camille is here, so I'm doing this for your good to spare you a conflict with her.”

“Why do you hate Camille so much now? The two of you were very close in the past and were once good friends.”

I was stunned for a moment, staggered at his shamelessness in asking me that question.

How ridiculous! My boyfriend and best friend were having an affair and stabbed me in the back together. How close would two people have to be that they wouldn't become enemies in such a situation? Or do I really seem that much of a saint?

Livid, I sneered and retorted, "You were also once my boyfriend, and we were very close. But what are we now?"

Dominic's face instantly darkened, and he shot daggers at me with fury etched on his face.

Jeez, why are you glowering at me? I didn't say anything wrong!

Just then, Camille came over. The moment she opened her mouth, her voice sounded wholly anguished. "Dom, Liliana, why... why are you two together?"

I said nothing, merely turning and casting Dominic an icy look.

Hah! Serves him right! I wanted to leave; yet, he just had to grab me. Well, he can explain things himself now!

However, I didn't quite understand why he was still holding on to me when Camille was standing right in front of us.

Is he overly confident that she'll never leave him? Or... does he not care at all?

Dominic then asked in a terse voice, "Why are you here, Camille? Didn't I tell you to rest earlier?"

Camille's expression turned slightly awkward, and she stammered weakly, "I... I couldn't sleep, and I found the room stuffy, so I came out for some air."

Despising her pitiful and fragile act, I demanded, "Then, why did you call me out and even claim that you found something of mine? Take it out and show it to me right now!"

Camille was startled for a moment before she murmured, "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to deceive you deliberately. I just wanted to talk to you."

Hearing that, I unceremoniously sneered, "Talk? What is there to talk about between us? Don't you know that I hate you?"

"Liliana..."

I cut her off abruptly. "Don't say my name. My name is actually melodious, but it sounds odious coming from you. You really shouldn't be so pretentious in life, Camille. You abhor me, so why are you so persistent in hounding me? Why must you bug me?"

Then, I swung my gaze at Dominic in chagrin since he forcefully yanked on my arm just now.

“You’ve gone overboard.”

I stared at him before shifting my eyes to Camille, who seemed a moment away from bursting into tears. Curling my lips, I countered, “Overboard? I don’t think so. I didn’t utter a single swear word, after all.”

Besides, I know her, and she’ll only hem her act up if I were to go overboard.

As I regarded the man’s indiscernible expression, I inwardly rolled my eyes.

I really don’t understand why he can’t see Camille’s real colors. Don’t tell me he has exhausted all his usual acuity at devising ways to sabotage me?

Irritated, I snarled, “Whatever! Just forget it and take her away quickly. I’m leaving!”

Ugh! If it weren’t for the two of them making trouble for me, I’m probably having sweet dreams right now!

Nevertheless, Dominic acted as though he hadn’t heard me. He was still clutching my arm with no sign of letting go anytime soon.

He then ordered, “Go back by yourself, Camille. It’s not early, and staying up late isn’t good for your health.

All at once, I was stupefied. What does he mean by that? Is he not planning to go back with her?

Similarly, Camille wore an astonished expression, and I even seemed to have glimpsed a trace of panic.

“What about you, Dom? Are you not coming with me? The way back to the room is dark, so I’m a bit scared to go back alone.”

I silently turned my face away, truly nauseated at her pretentious look right then.

Afraid of the dark? Haha, I truly laud her for coming up with that!

Surprisingly, Dominic didn’t seem to be taken in by her deception. But still, his words resonated with concern.

“I’ve got something to discuss with Liliana, so I’ll have a staff member walk you back later. When you’re back, rest earlier, okay?”

When I heard that, I inwardly doubled over in laughter.

Haha... As long as the woman is sane, she'll never allow her fiancé to be alone with his ex-girlfriend in the middle of the night! She'll never agree to that...

That was what I thought, but about a minute of silence later, I heard Camille acquiescing softly, "Okay."

What? Is she for real? She actually concurred just like that without kicking up a fuss?

While I was still in shock, Dominic was already dragging me away right before Camille.

Midway, I couldn't resist looking over my shoulder, only to lock gazes with Camille.

The resentment and malevolence in her eyes were so intense that fear enveloped me. I instinctually tugged at Dominic and motioned for him to look back.

He dubiously glanced back over his shoulder before promptly turning back around. Then, he questioned in bemusement, "What was that?"

"Good Lord, you're really dense! Didn't you see that Camille isn't pleased? In fact, she looked as though she wanted to devour me!"

As he continued dragging me forward, he placidly riposted, "Are you talking about yourself? Your attitude toward Camille seems to fit that description better."

At that, I was instantly rendered speechless. Ew! I'm not going to devour her even if you were to pay me to do so! Her heart, liver, spleen, and kidneys may be all black considering her evilness, and I'm afraid of poisoning!

I initially wanted to glance back for another look, but we had already arrived at the elevator doors. And the elevator just happened to be on the first floor, so we didn't even have to wait.

Only when I had entered the elevator did I remember to worry about my own predicament. Oh God, I'm doomed now!

Thinking that it was never too late to make amends, I immediately said to Dominic in a fawning voice, "Um... Mr. Hartnell, as you've seen earlier, I was truly there to retrieve something. I wasn't lying to you! Also, I do remember that I'm your woman."

Gah! I'll just bear with the embarrassment since I've got no other choice but to be subservient as I'm at a disadvantage here!

The corners of Dominic's mouth slowly tilted up. Leaning close to my ear, he drawled, "Let me remind you of that."

## Love the Second Time Around Chapter 129

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 129 A Domineering Order

Upon hearing that, a full-body shudder ran through me at once.

Remind me, my foot! If only I had magical powers or spells for teleportation, I'd just disappear from his sight right now!

Alas, I had nothing at all, so I could only resign myself to my fate and meekly allowed Dominic to drag me out the elevator and into the room.

As soon as I entered the room, he pinned me on the bed.

When he started stripping me deftly, I placed a hand on his and blurted anxiously, "Wait! I need to make a call."

Propping himself on his arms, he inquired with a half-smile, "What call, and to whom? Are you planning to have someone come and rescue you?"

"I want to call Shannon. I told her that I was going to retrieve something when I left the room, so she'll worry if I don't return."

Pulling me up, the man handed his cell phone to me.

The moment I made the call, Dominic put it on speakerphone. I pressed my lips into a thin line and threw him an angry stare, not daring to complain despite my vexation.

I inwardly prayed fervently, hoping that Shannon wouldn't start with her antics and spout nonsense.

In no time, she answered the call. Since it was on speakerphone, I wanted to quickly hang up after telling her I wasn't coming back that night.

Unexpectedly, she promptly blurted out something that had me seized by the urge to strangle her right after hearing that.

"Where are you spending the night if you're not coming back? Liliana, don't tell me you went to look for Royce?"

I sneaked a peek at Dominic, but he was wearing a faint smile that rendered his emotions unfathomable.

However, he then pushed me onto the bed and took the cell phone from my hand, placing it on the pillow instead.

While trying to fend him off with my hands, I turned my head and urgently shouted a denial toward the cell phone. "What nonsense are you spouting? How could I possibly go and look for Royce?"

Nonetheless, Shannon started acting up and continued pressing for an answer. "If so, tell me where you're spending the night. Who else could it be other than Royce? It can't be Dominic since he's a scumb\*g. Liliana, you really shouldn't go back to a jerk like him."

My head started throbbing as regret swamped me. Damn it! I shouldn't have made this call. She's really signing my death warrant!

Meanwhile, Dominic muttered into my ear, "You'll only look for Royce? And I'm a scumb\*g, huh?"

I shook my head frantically. "No!"

In the next moment, Shannon's voice rang out again. "Liliana, you urged me to take things slow with Quinn, yet you yourself couldn't hold back anymore as passions ignited, huh?"

In that instance, I glimpsed a nightmare unfurling in my mind.

Oh my God, she's sounding increasingly outrageous!

Once again, Dominic brought his lips to my ear and whispered, "Passions ignited? Well, well... Liliana, I'm really curious as to how you got acquainted with Royce."

In a trice, he divested most of the clothes on the upper half of my body, leaving me in a baggy long-sleeved T-shirt.

Then, he started roaming his hands all over me.

I bit my lip hard, not daring to allow the slightest gap.

After all, I knew that I wouldn't be able to stop myself from moaning once I opened my mouth, and that would be utterly mortifying.

"Liliana? Why aren't you saying anything? Liliana?" Shannon called out to me in puzzlement from the cell phone on the pillow.

Smirking wickedly, Dominic slowly slipped a hand into my pants.



I hastily grabbed his hand, my eyes almost popping out of my head.

Good heavens! He might be so shameless that he doesn't mind someone hearing him in bed, but I do! Besides, I still want my dignity!

Fortunately, he didn't seem truly serious in messing around and did nothing excessive. The good thing was, he had also stopped his assault on my upper body.

Instantly relaxing, I panted, "I'm hanging up, Shannon. Anyway, I'm not coming back tonight. As for tomorrow... Well, just wait for my call."

After saying that, I swiftly hung up the phone.

Surprisingly, Dominic was no longer in any hurry to obtain gratification. Propping himself up, he looked down at me and declared, "Now, let's talk about how you got acquainted with Royce."

I pursed my lips and kept quiet for a moment. Feeling uneasy at his frank perusal while I was in my birthday suit, I curled into myself and shielded my breasts with both hands.

Only after having done that did I nervously stutter, "We... We just got acquainted."

Grasping my chin, the man turned my face back to him. "How exactly did you get acquainted with him?"

I gulped quietly, fairly certain that he would kill me if I were to speak the truth.

When I merely kept silent, Dominic suddenly chuckled coldly.

"I can investigate it even if you don't tell me, but are you sure you want me to investigate it myself?" he drawled unhurriedly.

I shuddered at his blatant threat though I was quite used to it by then.

"I... Back then, Shannon asked me to accompany her for a meal, so... so I got acquainted with him."

I contemplated for a long while, but I decided not to mention the word "blind date." I simply couldn't shake off the feeling that those two words were particularly dangerous.

Harrumphing, he sneered, "Cut off all contact with him and never meet him again."

Jeez, here he comes again! He's simply too domineering, always asking me to sever all contact! Is he planning to have me cut off ties with every single man in my life? We're only going to be together for a few more months at most, so I can contact whoever I want after that, no?

Despite my thoughts, I still nodded swiftly before him.

Honestly speaking, I didn't plan on having a relationship with Royce, and I had already made it clear to him previously.

If Shannon hadn't dragged me here today, I wouldn't even have bumped into him.

Out of the blue, I felt that I was even more wrongly accused than the greatest villain on earth.

Subsequently, Dominic continued in a frosty voice, "Liliana, you're quite popular with men nowadays. Before this, it was Nicholas, and now, it's Royce. Who else is it going to be next?"

"I've got you, so rest assured that there won't be anyone else!" I blurted without even thinking about it.

Quirking a brow, he stared at me with gleaming eyes. "Are you sure?" he repeated.

Without further deliberation, I asserted, "Yes, I'm sure."

Perhaps appeased by my sincere attitude, Dominic's expression finally eased.

However, that didn't mean that he was going to let me off easily. After having been tormented the entire night, my entire body ached as though a huge truck had run me over more than a dozen times.

Worse still, Dominic woke me up at the crack of dawn the next morning. He wanted to check out, and it seemed as though he was in a great hurry.

He even said that it was fine if I didn't want to wake up, but I would have to pay the extra money.

When I heard that, I was truly gripped by the urge to kill him.

Having no other choice, I dragged my tired body that was on the verge of falling into pieces out of bed.

Upon seeing that it was still early, I went back to the room I shared with Shannon.

The moment Shannon saw me when she opened the door, she started interrogating me about my whereabouts last night.

## **Love the Second Time Around Chapter 130**

Pushing Shannon away, I stumbled into the room and tumbled right into bed.

Before I closed my eyes, I muttered, "Let me sleep for a bit first. I'll tell you where I went last night when I wake up."

Then, I promptly fell into a deep slumber, only rousing when it was almost noon.

As soon as I opened my eyes, Shannon was already eagerly demanding answers while my mind was still groggy with sleep. "Okay, no more giving me excuses now. Quick, tell me whether you went to look for Royce yesterday! Earlier this morning, just after you had dozed off, he came over with breakfast. It's right there, so look for yourself."

Looking in the direction where she was pointing, I was greeted by the sight of a myriad of food on the small table.

A moment later, I retracted my gaze. Ah, he's indeed a good man, but there's already someone else occupying the space in my heart. As such, there's no more space for anyone else. What a pity!

Shannon lifted a hand and waved it in front of me. "Why are you spacing out now?" she queried. "Well? Say something!"

After a second's contemplation, I admitted, "Shannon, I was not with Royce last night, and it's impossible between us. Last night... I was with Dominic."

Shannon seemed to have suffered a shock, and she only reacted after an eternity. "You got together with Dominic again? Are you a fool, Liliana?"

"No, we're not together per se. We're just... in a mutually beneficial relationship."

"What does that mean?" Shannon's expression abruptly turned grave.

"It's exactly as it means. When he gets married, I'll sever my relationship with him," I explained in a mere whisper.

Shannon was momentarily taken aback before she clutched my hand and asked apprehensively, "Did he coerce you? Does he have dirt on you or something?"

In response, I shook my head slowly. "This matter is actually very complicated, but he didn't coerce me. Shannon, my current relationship with him will only persist for a few months at most. When he gets married, things will be over between us."

Shannon froze for a second before she murmured in distress, "Have you taken leave of your senses? By doing so, you're the one who'll be on the losing end. And it'll also be you who'll be wallowing in pain and grief in the end."

Forcing a smile, I mollified her, saying, "I'll be fine."

"Fine? You'll be crying your heart out then!" Shannon cut me a glare.

At that, I kept mum.

On our way back, we were both silent for the entire trip. Shannon was angry at me, but I knew that she just wanted the best for me.

It wasn't until I made to alight from the car when we arrived at my house did she finally call out to me.

"I've never seen such a foolish woman like you. If you're heartbroken then, remember to ring me up beforehand. I'll be waiting for you with tons of liquor."

"I will."

Honestly, it's nice to have friends!

After going home, I focused all my attention on drawing though I did make myself a bowl of noodles sometime in between.

When it was almost midnight, I suddenly heard the sound of someone unlocking the door outside. Upon taking a gander, I saw that it was actually Dominic.

Despite glimpsing the keys in his hand, I didn't bother asking since it was obvious that he had furtively made a copy for himself.

Regarding him in bafflement, I inquired, "Why did you come over at this hour?"

The man loosened his tie before plopping down on the couch with fatigue etched on his face. "I came to see whether you're obediently staying home."

At once, I was rendered speechless. Jeez, he's dead on his feet; yet, he doesn't forget to snub me!

Ignoring him, I spun around and went back to my room. But after sitting down for two minutes, I couldn't resist going back to the living room.

Dominic was still sitting on the sofa, but his eyes were closed, and he seemed to be asleep.

At the sight of his sorry state, I couldn't help walking over and nudging him. "Go and take a shower before sleeping on the bed. Don't sleep here, or you'll catch a cold," I urged.

Without opening his eyes, he blurted, "I'm hungry."

Exasperation flooded me, but still, I queried, "I'll cook some noodles for you, okay?"

I waited for a long while before I finally got a murmur of acquiescence in reply.

However, when I was done cooking and wanted to call him to eat, I realized that he had truly fallen asleep. He seemed to be slumbering soundly, his breathing deep.

I pondered for a moment, but in the end, I decided against waking him. After arranging him properly on the couch, I snagged a blanket from the room and draped it over him.

Then, I took my tablet to the living room. Putting a cushion on the floor, I sat down on it.

Dominic was tall in stature, so I was worried that he would fall off in the middle of the night.

I was quite energetic in the beginning, but I gradually grew drowsy during the latter half of the night. I wanted to go back and sleep in my room, but I worried about him, so I rested my head against the couch and dozed off.

While I was groggy with sleep, I felt someone scooping me up.

Blinking an eye open, I saw that Dominic was carrying me to the bedroom.

At that, I closed my eye drowsily. Only when I sensed the soft covers surrounding me did I finally open my eyes while half-asleep.

"What time is it now? Are you going to work?"

"I'm going on a business trip for two days..."

I heard Dominic telling me that he was going on a business trip, but I truly had no inkling of whatever else he said after that.

When I racked my brains upon waking up, I still couldn't remember anything other than the fact that he had gone on a business trip.

In the afternoon, both Royce and Nicholas sent me a WhatsApp message. Besides, I also had two missed calls from the latter.

Royce wanted to ask me out for a meal, but I declined right away. It wasn't just for the sake of my promise to Dominic, but more so because I didn't want to go either.

Nicholas, on the other hand, asked me to call him back when I was free.

I phoned him, but he didn't answer. Guessing that he was probably filming, I didn't continue calling.

At a little over eight at night, he finally called me back.

I hadn't contacted him for a long time, aware that he would definitely be swamped with filming.

Furthermore, I was afraid that I would land him in hot water, Dominic's threat toward him back then still vivid in my mind.

Anyhow, things seemed fine at the moment, for all those people who previously slandered him on the Internet had now disappeared.

While I couldn't see his countenance, I could hear the weariness from his voice alone.

It turned out that Nicholas phoned me because he needed me to do him a favor and visit someone on his behalf. He was on a tight schedule recently, so he couldn't leave the set.

Although Dominic told me to cut off contact with Nicholas, I only regarded him as a friend. Besides, he had helped me multiple times. It was rare that I had an opportunity to help him out, so I agreed without an ounce of hesitation.

The next day, I did some shopping as per his request. Then, I hailed a taxi and headed straight to the location he gave me.

178, Cobalt Avenue turned out to be an old house. That was where Nicholas' grandmother, Monica Cross, resided.

I rang for the doorbell for a long time before an elderly lady with gray hair opened the door. Although she was up in years, she seemed to be in good health.

Guessing that it was probably Nicholas' grandmother, I was just about to greet her when the elderly lady pointed at me excitedly and exclaimed, "Oh, aren't you Nicky's girlfriend?"