

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 131

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 131 I Am Not His Girlfriend

The elderly lady's exclamation stunned me for a moment. I wanted to clarify things, but she had already pulled me into the house with all the enthusiasm in the world.

As she walked, she prattled on. "Why did you only come to visit me now? I've been keeping track of news about you and Nicky on the Internet every day. I'd hoped you'd come soon so that I could have a good look at you. Fortunately, you're finally here today. Liliana... Oh, your name is Liliana, right? That's a good name. Lily symbolizes purity and innocence. Your parents must be decent people as well."

She then continued, "Do you mind me calling you Lili, child? Let me tell you, don't take those comments on the Internet to heart. It doesn't matter in the slightest whether they like you. It's fine as long as Nicky likes you. Besides, I like you, too! Are you thirsty, Lili? Do have a seat. I'll go and get you a glass of fruit juice."

She led me into the house by the hand, chattering all the way. I wanted to interject, but there was no room for me to do so.

Right then, my mind was already feeling fuzzy, and my temples throbbed faintly.

What did she say just now? She read the news on the Internet and assumed that I was Nicholas' girlfriend, so she has been waiting for me to visit? She appears to be in her sixties or seventies; yet, she reads the gossip on the Internet?

All at once, I was torn between amusement and exasperation.

Why is Nicholas' personality the polar opposite of hers?

"Lili, I've decided not to give you fruit juice. The weather is chilly now, so it's not good to drink that. I made you milk tea instead, and it's strawberry-flavored. Do you like it? This is my favorite!"

Monica was all smiles as she placed the milk tea in front of me. Then, she stared at me earnestly.

Seeing that, I was stunned for a moment. Is she hoping that I'll drink it right now?

"So, do you like it? If you do, hurry up and take a few sips to warm up."

Strawberry-flavored milk tea, huh? She's really young at heart! I've never seen anyone of her age drinking milk tea, after all.

Picking it up, I could sense that the cup was warm, so Monica probably made it with warm water.

“Thank you, Mrs. Scott. It’s delicious!”

When Monica heard that, she instantly beamed like a child.

After a moment’s deliberation, I explained, “Mrs. Scott, Nicholas is a tad busy on set this month, so he can’t visit you for now. Yesterday, he phoned me specifically to ask me to visit you. And everything I bought was according to his specifications. They’re all your favorite foods.”

Monica was again over the moon. Grasping my hand, she fervently asserted, “You don’t need to buy anything. Next time, just come empty-handed. Lili, I can tell that your relationship with Nicky is very good. When are you two planning to get married?”

Married? Isn’t she going too fast? I feel as though I can’t quite keep up with her thought processes!

Having no other choice, I clarified, “Mrs. Scott, Nicholas and I are just friends. Our relationship isn’t what the public thinks it is.”

“How could that possibly be the case? It’s all over the news. Besides, Nicky has even asked you to come over and visit me, so he certainly has his heart set on you.”

Huh? That doesn’t make sense at all. Nonplussed, I insisted, “We’re really not a couple.”

At that, Monica put on an understanding expression and waved a dismissive hand. “Alright, I know there are many rules in the entertainment industry, so it’s okay even if you refuse to admit it. It’s enough as long as I know that you two are dating,” she replied. “Lili, stay for lunch, okay? I’ll cook some delicious food for you!”

I hadn’t seen anyone in the house ever since I came in, so I surmised that she usually lived alone.

Recalling her advanced age, distress washed over me.

“Sure! But I’ll cook, Mrs. Scott. Just take a rest and watch some television or something.”

Hearing that, Monica patted the back of my hand and grinned from ear to ear.

“I love a woman who can cook. It looks like Nicky will be in for a treat in the future.”

I was thoroughly amused by her words. After mulling it over for a while, I decided to give up on convincing her about my relationship with Nicholas.

Never mind, I'll just let her believe that if it makes her happy. Anyway, Nicholas and I both know that we're only friends.

Monica then led me into the kitchen and told me about where I could find the utensils and ingredients. When I had a rough idea of things, I urged her to go to the living room and watch television.

Just then, Nicholas called. "Have you gone over to visit my grandmother, Liliana? How is she?"

"Yup. Your grandmother is fine, and she seems to be in high spirits. Would you like to speak to her? I'll hand the phone to her."

"Sure!"

Hence, I temporarily turned down the heat and went in search of Monica with my cell phone in hand.

Monica's smile brightened further when she heard her grandson's voice. She even sang my praises to Nicholas, saying, "Nicky, Lili is cooking lunch for me. Do you want to come back and eat before going back?"

Truth be told, I was actually a touch embarrassed, for my culinary skills pale in comparison to Nicholas'.

I had no idea what Nicholas said to Monica, but she chortled in delight.

When Monica returned the cell phone to me, Nicholas murmured, "I'm sorry, Liliana. My grandmother must have talked your ear off. She has a childlike character now, so please don't take offense at her."

Chuckling, I replied, "Don't worry, for I don't mind as long as she's happy."

After that, Nicholas hung up since he was already being called for his scene.

Indeed, I heard it when Monica asked him whether he was coming back to eat, but I didn't mention it since he didn't say anything about it. Considering how busy he was, I reckoned that he probably had no time to make a trip back even if he wanted to do so.

Unexpectedly, he truly turned up when lunchtime came about, and I was done cooking.

Monica was elated, and she kept bombarding him with questions.

After having lunch with her, Nicholas and I then left the old house.

When I left, Monica repeatedly urged me to come over and visit her often in the future.

I merely smiled and acquiesced.

The narrow alley right after we exited the old house was rather isolated with few people, so Nicholas and I walked side by side.

“Thank you for everything, Liliانا.”

“Don’t be a stranger with me. You’ve helped me so many times, so this trivial matter is nothing. Besides, your grandmother is really adorable and interesting.”

Nicholas’ expression turned exasperated, but his smile remained bright. Thus, it was clear that he definitely had a close relationship with his grandmother.

“Actually, I feel bad that I’m so busy with work, but Grandma said she likes to watch my movies. For that reason, I want to film a few more movies in recent years so that she can enjoy watching them.”

That came as a surprise to me, for I never expected Nicholas to have such a reason behind his acting career.

We chatted as we strolled down the road, so we were already close to the main road before we knew it.

I then asked Nicholas to leave first while I took a taxi home myself.

Just after I had alighted from the taxi outside my residential area, I heard someone calling my name.

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 132 A Good Hand Of Cards

The voice calling out my name was simply too familiar to me—Camille. Without even a backward glance, I continued striding toward my residential area.

Ugh! Why must she hound me endlessly? How irritating!

Despite my fervent desire to be rid of her, she was simply persistent at pestering me. Right then, she had already caught up to me and blocked my path.

“Liliana, I want to talk to you.”

I ignored her as though I didn't hear her. Moving around her, I continued forging ahead.

However, Camille again raced up to me and grabbed me. “Liliana, I...”

Shaking her off, I pushed her away and snarled testily, “Are you sick in the head? I've got nothing to say to you, nor do I want to listen to anything from you, so stop blocking my path!”

Every single time Camille sought me out, I always expressed my detestation of her loud and clear. However, she was simply like a burr which I couldn't shake off no matter how hard I tried.

This situation now was the perfect example of that. I had already put things bluntly; yet, she was still blocking my path.

My head started throbbing, and aggravation assaulted me. “That's enough, Camille Madison! What the hell do you want?” I barked.

A faint smile bloomed on her face, and she earnestly asserted, “I have no malicious intentions. I just want to talk to you.”

“I really can't figure out what's going on in your head. What do you think there is to talk about between us?”

Camille's gaze abruptly dimmed, and she even appeared a tad cautious. “Are you and Dom... Have you both gotten back together again?”

At her question, I was startled for a moment.

Can she tell? But that isn't surprising since Dominic doesn't seem to have any intention of keeping things discreet before her.

While I detested her, I still felt a smidge guilty toward her at her current expression. Indeed, I only agreed to Dominic's stipulation of being friends with benefits because I had no other choice, but it wasn't a virtuous thing to do at the end of the day.

“You think too much. We're not together,” I clarified.

“But the two of you were together that night at the resort, no? Dom didn't come back the entire night, and I've seen you with him more than once.”

At Camille's frank remark, my face started flaming out of embarrassment.

I castigated her for carrying on with Dominic while he was still my boyfriend then, but how are my actions now different from hers?

All of a sudden, I didn't quite know what to say. I was at a loss for words, and sheer distress slammed into me like a sledgehammer.

"We..."

Just when I wanted to speak, Camille cut me off in a choked voice. "Liliana, I know your relationship with Dom was very close back then. Although I have no idea why you two broke up, I don't mind backing out if you really want to get back with him. The two of you... The two of you don't need to sneak around behind my back."

I was taken aback before I instinctively frowned.

What does she mean by having no idea why we broke up? Back when I caught her with Dominic, she spotted me alright. And when I asked Dominic for a breakup later, she even phoned me and thanked me for setting him free, her relish and smugness were clear as day! Yet, she's now telling me that she doesn't know why I broke up with him?

"Putting aside the issue of whether Dominic and I are together now, you know full well why I broke up with him back then, no? I didn't want to pursue it because it made no difference, but don't you think it's too much for you to feign ignorance and innocence?"

My voice inexorably turned cold, and every single shred of guilt I had harbored toward her earlier had now faded.

Without warning, Camille started sobbing. She clutched at me tightly with both hands, and her voice shook as she spoke. "I... I love Dom. I love him very much! However, you're more important to me. You're my best friend, so I'm willing to back out for your sake. But... Liliana, I hope you'll treat him well this time and not hurt him anymore."

My headache turned into a migraine, and I truly couldn't stand her anymore. Ugh! Isn't she tired of putting on an act all the time?

"Alright, you should really stop acting while you're ahead. I..."

Before I had finished my utterance, I was suddenly shoved away. When I was steady on my feet, I swung my gaze to the person who pushed me, only to see that it was Dominic's mother—Milena.

She hugged Camille with a distressed expression and even wiped the tears off her face. "Camille, you're really too kind for your own good. What's all that talk about backing out? The daughter-in-law of the Hartnell family can only be you. Don't cry anymore, okay? I'm here, and I'll stand up for you!"

Camille shook her head profusely, tears streaming down her pale cheeks steadily.

“Milena, Liliana is my friend, and she’s very important to me. I have very few friends, so I don’t want to lose her. She likes Dom as well. She’s actually a very nice girl. You’ll definitely like her after spending more time with her. Milena, please... please accept her and allow her to be with Dom...”

While comforting her, Milena shot daggers at me with resentment written all over her face.

Seeing that turn of events, my heart clenched tightly. I knew that I had been set up by Camille once again.

“Mrs. Hartnell, I know you probably won’t believe me no matter what I say now, but I have no intention of getting back with Dominic. As such, I don’t need anyone to back out. Also, I’m no friend of hers.”

I had nothing else to say besides that, and I preferred to put the episode behind me.

Thus, I moved around them to leave. Milena, however, refused to allow me to leave. “Stop right there! I’ve got something to say to you!”

I hesitated for a moment, but still, I halted in my tracks. Feeling trapped in a sense of helplessness, I turned back around.

She swept a glacial look over me and uttered a few words to Camille in a low voice before stalking toward me with a frosty expression.

When she reached me, I started, “Mrs. Hartnell...”

Slap! She struck me right across the face. Caught off guard by the blow, I instantly fell into a trance.

“Milena!”

With a tear-stained face, Camille dashed over, following her exclamation. She wedged herself between Milena and me.

“Step aside, Camille.”

Milena pulled her away and regarded me with a grim look in her eyes.

“The same trick will only work once. Do you think it’ll still work for a second time? You may be able to fool Camille with reverse psychology, but not me. I never expected you to be so cunning despite your tender age. Camille wants the best for this so-called best friend of hers, but you don’t appreciate her sincerity in the slightest. Worse still, you

keep taking advantage of her. Liliana, I'm warning you today that I'll never let you off easily if you again take advantage of Camille's kindness to play tricks and pester Dom."

Then, she went on to declare, "A crafty, despicable, and shameless woman like you is not at all worthy of my son! The Hartnell family doesn't welcome you either!"

At once, my hands clenched into fists. Camille has truly played a good hand of cards!

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 133 I Have Been Hit

Pinning my gaze on Camille, I drawled, "You must be gratified with this outcome now, huh? Are you rejoicing inwardly?"

"No! Liliana, that's not true..."

She wore an expression of urgency and concern. Then, she even wanted to rush over to me, but Milena pulled her back. "Don't get fooled by her anymore, Camille!"

Out of the blue, I was seized by the urge to burst into laughter. Haha, she should be saying that to herself!

"Mrs. Hartnell, I respect you as an elder, so I don't want to fight with you. Hence, I'll accept and resign myself to this slap today. However, that doesn't mean that I'm acknowledging your accusations. Putting aside the issue of whether I'm the kind of person you alleged, you have no right to comment on my conduct even if I am. Since you think your judgment is faultless; thus, believe that Camille is innocent and kind, I hope you'll only see this side of her for the rest of your life. Otherwise, you'd know how laughable you are today if you were to accidentally discern her true colors."

Milena was stunned for a moment before she snorted coldly. "What a glib and sharp tongue you have!"

I merely snickered without saying anything further. After casting Camille a final glance, I spun on my heels and left.

All the way back, I kept my back ramrod straight and my steps steady. It wasn't until I got home and was finally free from other people's scrutiny that I released the tight rein on my emotions. With my back against the door, I slowly dropped into a crouch.

As I gazed at the floorboards with my head lowered, a drop of tear suddenly trickled down and splattered onto the floor. I then touched the cheek that Milena struck, only to feel red-hot pain.

This is all your fault, Dominic Hartnell! If it weren't for you, I wouldn't have suffered such great humiliation today!

Dashing off my tears, I whipped out my cell phone and gave Dominic a call.

Aggrieved at having suffered a slap for no reason, I felt that I would be doing myself a disservice by keeping it from him. Besides, it would also be good to tell him earlier, lest someone proceeded to twist the story.

In no time, Dominic answered the call. "Hello."

Sniffing, I demanded, "Didn't you say that I'm your woman, Dominic? I've now been hit. Do you care?"

Dominic's voice abruptly turned frantic. "You've been hit? Who hit you? And are you a moron? Why didn't you retaliate? Aren't you gutsy as hell with me?"

Retaliate? Hah! I'll just see what he's going to say after learning the identity of the person who hit me.

"Are you sure I should retaliate? What if I'm not the person's match? I'm alone now, after all."

"Where are you now? I'll ask someone to go over right away! Liliana, did you run around again? I'm just gone on a business trip for two days, yet you simply can't behave and stay home?"

What the hell? He's making it sound as though I'm the kind of person who likes to cause trouble on purpose!

Both incensed and aggrieved, I roared, "I didn't run around! It was Camille who sought me out with your mother, and your mother even slapped me! So, do you still want me to retaliate now?"

Silence reigned on the other end of the phone. After a long while, Dominic murmured, "Where are you now?"

"At home. Dominic, while I didn't retaliate, I didn't mince words with your mother either. I'm telling you now that I won't accept it if you want to chastise me because you think I was in the wrong if they were to complain to you later. I'm not going to apologize either. I don't think I've done anything wrong regarding this incident today!"

Dominic was quiet for a few seconds before he replied, "Got it. Wait for me at home, and don't go out anymore."

"Okay, I'll be waiting." After the end of our conversation, we both hung up.

Fine, I'll wait for you! I'll just wait and see what's he planning to do when he's back.

Subsequently, I went to my room and changed into some comfy clothes. Standing before the mirror, I inspected my face. It was slightly red though I wasn't certain whether it would get swollen.

Nevertheless, I didn't plan on applying a cold compress. Well, whatever. If it really gets swollen, it's all the better for him to see it when he comes back.

Composing myself, I started drawing while waiting for Dominic to come by.

I initially thought that he would be back very quickly, but there was no sign of him even after I had waited until night dawned, and it was now almost ten o'clock.

Earlier in the afternoon, I had called him again to inquire whether he would be back for dinner, but no one picked up.

Truthfully, I really wanted to wait for him. Alas, I later couldn't quite stay awake anymore and dozed off while drawing.

At around one o'clock in the morning, I jolted awake. But still, he had yet to be back.

Argh! What's the meaning of this? He should've just told me that he couldn't make it back instead of stringing me along! What a waste of time to have waited up for him so long!

Disregarding the late hour, I phoned Dominic in a pique.

The call was finally answered this time, and it was done so in record time to boot. As soon as I heard the call being connected, I immediately started ranting.

"Didn't you ask me to wait for you, Dominic? Do you know what time it is now? You should've told me earlier if you couldn't make it back instead of making me wait up for such a long time!"

When I was done, I was greeted by silence. It persisted for more than ten seconds before the person on the other end finally spoke.

"Ms. Zanetti, this is Calvin here."

Calvin? Why is he in possession of Dominic's phone?

Chuckling awkwardly, I blurted, "Oh, it's you, Calvin? I'm sorry about waking you up. Um... So, where's Dominic?"

"Mr. Hartnell... Mr. Hartnell is undergoing treatment. He met with an accident."

Huh? He met with an accident?

My mind instantly went blank, and I almost dropped the phone.

When I had gathered my wits about me, I frantically asked, “Is he hurt very badly? And how did he get into an accident? Are you two back now?”

Calvin was silent for a moment before he admitted, “I’m not sure about his exact condition right now. The original plan was to go back together after we settled everything tomorrow, but Mr. Hartnell insisted on going back today. So, I stayed to wrap up the loose ends while he drove back by himself. He wanted to rush back overnight.”

Then, he went on to explain, “He has been swamped these days and had very little rest. For the past two days over here at Ludshire, he worked around the clock and slept less than three hours the first night. Besides, it rained heavily, and the roads were slippery. For that reason, he met with an accident soon after getting onto the highway.”

Upon hearing that, my heart lodged into my throat. Stark worry engulfed me even as anxiety battered against me. Thus, the next words out of my mouth became harsh and unforgiving.

“Aren’t you his assistant? Why didn’t you dissuade him from doing so? You knew that he didn’t have enough rest, and the road conditions, as well as the weather, were bad; yet, you allowed him to drive through the night?”

“I tried to dissuade him, but...” Calvin sounded exceedingly guilty. After a brief pause, he murmured, “I’m sorry, Ms. Zanetti.”

Only when I heard him apologizing did I realize that I shouldn’t have lashed out at him. Dominic was a domineering man, after all, so he wouldn’t have listened to anyone else.

“No, I’m sorry, Calvin. I shouldn’t have lost it. Are you both at Ludshire now? Which hospital are you at? I’ll come over right away.”

“Ludshire General Hospital.”

Hmm... It’ll only take a little over an hour from Lightspring to Ludshire by express train. I really hope I can still get a ticket at this hour!

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 134 What A Thankless Task

I was really lucky, for I managed to get a ticket. Before boarding the train, I sent the estimated arrival time and the train information to Calvin.

Upon arriving at Ludshire, Calvin picked me up, and we headed straight to Ludshire General Hospital.

To my relief, Dominic wasn't badly injured. Only his right arm was fractured, and it would be right as rain after a few months.

He must be extremely tired, for he had long since fallen asleep when I arrived at the hospital to visit him.

As I sat beside the hospital bed, I stared at his sleeping countenance. My emotions right then were a chaotic mess that I couldn't quite put into words.

On my way there, I kept pondering why exactly he was in such a hurry to rush back.

Was it because I told him that his mother slapped me, or was it because he knew that I was waiting for him? No matter which reason it was, it was ultimately because of me, no? But that doesn't quite fit his usual attitude and sentiments toward me. Nevertheless, he seems adamant about keeping me by his side. Why is that? I really don't understand him or his motivations.

Perhaps I had pondered too much that I found it exceedingly convoluted, but I simply couldn't make heads or tails of it.

Logically speaking, I should be dead tired after having hustled around for half the day, rushing over to Ludshire from Lightspring. But for some reason, I wasn't sleepy at all right then.

I sat by the bed and stared at Dominic with a hand propped against my head until the sky gradually lightened outside.

After having sat there for the entire day, my hands and feet were numb.

Yet, Dominic hadn't awakened. I glanced at the time, only to see that it was already past seven.

I had no inkling when he was going to rouse, but I decided to go out and buy some breakfast back, in case he was hungry upon waking up.

When I stepped out of the hospital room, I saw Calvin dozing on the chair outside. Nevertheless, I didn't wake him.

The moment I exited the hospital, I couldn't help shivering. Even the air I breathed in felt icy cold.

It didn't rain last night, but it was currently drizzling. Without an umbrella, the rain dripped into the collar of my shirt, making me so cold that my legs felt frozen.

I swiftly sprinted out of the hospital and randomly bought a bunch of food from a stall by the street.

When I returned to the hospital room laden with breakfast, Dominic was already awake.

Yesterday, Calvin told me that he fell asleep right after the doctor had treated his injury, so I insisted that he should just let Dominic sleep instead of informing him.

Thus, he was exceedingly surprised when he caught sight of me then.

"You're awake? Where does it hurt? The doctor is probably going to make the rounds soon, so remember to tell him if you're not feeling well."

I placed the food in my hand on the bedside table. Then, I rubbed my hands and brought them to my mouth, exhaling into them in a bid to warm them.

"I bought breakfast. Are you hungry? Even if you're not, do eat some while it's still hot now. Otherwise, it'll definitely be cold in a while," I chattered as I rummaged through the contents in the plastic bag. "There are grilled sandwiches, pancakes, and hash browns. I even bought chicken soup and hot chocolate. What would you like?"

I had finished speaking yet received no response even after a long time had passed. At that, I lifted my head and looked at him. "Cat got your tongue, Dominic? I asked you a question."

"Why are you here? And when did you come over? Didn't I tell you to wait for me at home and not to run around?"

All at once, I felt like ignoring him. Hey! I've never seen someone who starts lecturing the moment he opens his eyes, let alone a patient!

"Do you know the principle of first come, first served? I asked you what you wanted to eat first, so I'll only answer you after you've answered me."

Dominic locked eyes with me for several seconds before he replied, "Anything. You decide."

Picking up the chicken soup, I sat down by the bed.

"Here, I think chicken soup will do you some good. Open your mouth."

Never before had Dominic been so obedient to me, opening his mouth at my command.

After he had finished the chicken soup, I took the hash browns over. Taking one with a fork, I brought it to his mouth. "Have more since I bought plenty. You get hungry very quickly with just chicken soup."

He opened his mouth and ate it without a single word. In no time, he finished the hash browns as well.

I was rather happy and satisfied. Taking out the slightly cold grilled sandwich and hot chocolate, I started eating my breakfast.

"Did you come over in the morning?"

"Nope. I came over yesterday. You told me to wait for you, but you didn't come back even when I waited until it was past midnight. So, I gave you a call. Calvin told me that you were in an accident, so I came over."

Dominic was startled for a moment before his face darkened ominously. "Have you lost your mind, Liliana? Did you come all the way to Ludshire from Lightspring in the middle of the night? What if something happened to you?"

I took a sip of hot chocolate to wash down the grilled sandwich before glaring at him.

"Right back at you. Who's the one lying on the hospital bed now, huh?" I shot back.

"Say, why can't you just speak nicely? Since you know that I rushed over in the middle of the night, can't you say something else? For instance, you can thank me or even apologize for the inconvenience. Just say something nice for a change."

Ugh! I've seen anyone as ungrateful as him! Isn't it because of him that I came running over in the middle of the night? What a thankless task!

However, he wasn't the least bit remorseful. The next words out of his mouth almost had me bursting a blood vessel.

"Did I ask you to come? You simply like to cause trouble, and you never behave. If something had happened to you, it'd have been more work for me, no?"

Slamming the hot chocolate in my hand onto the table with a thud, I shot up from the chair.

"Fine, just pretend that I've never been here then, Dominic Hartnell! You can stay here alone. Meanwhile, I'm now heading back to Lightspring!"

I pivoted and stormed toward the door. Argh! I'm so angry that I feel like I'm on the verge of exploding! Truly, I've never met anyone like him!

"Stop right there! Did I tell you to leave?"

Jeez, what a lunatic! Am I supposed to stop just because you said so? I've got a temper, too!

Ignoring him, I quickened my pace.

When I swung open the door upon reaching it, I was greeted by a group of people outside. The doctors were here to make their rounds, and Calvin trailed after them.

As the doctors were here, I changed my mind about leaving since I wanted to listen to their prognosis.

Anyway, Dominic was declared fine and could be discharged after another day. In fact, it would be fine even if he wanted to do so that day itself.

Therefore, Dominic had Calvin settle the discharge procedures. Recalling his horrible attitude earlier, I made to leave, but he called me back.

Glowering at him, I huffily snarled, "I'm not welcomed here, am I, Mr. Hartnell? In that case, why did you call me back? I know how to buy a ticket back, so rest assured that I won't be shamelessly clinging to you."

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 135 Only I Can Bully You

"I only said a few words, and you're being so pissy. What's with you?"

Hearing this made me even angrier.

I was angry at your poor attitude. How did this turn into my fault?

"Dominic, do you have split personalities? You were the one that started this first! Be honest and answer me with your conscience!"

Dominic glanced at me casually before saying slowly, "I am the sick one here. Why are you arguing with a patient? Can you be more patient and tolerant toward me?"

I clenched my fists tightly before letting go.

"Hmph!" I decided not to make a big fuss about it.

"Come over here."

I walked over with a scowl. "What do you want now?"

Dominic did not answer but stared at me for some time. Then, he used his uninjured left hand to pinch my face, pulling it left and right.

I pulled away from his hand and asked exasperatingly, "What are you doing? Let go of me. You have only one hand left and still want to fool around."

Dominic was not using any strength, so after I said that, he released his hand.

"I do not see any marks on your face. Which side did my mom hit?"

I realized that he was staring at me to check whether there was a slap mark on my face.

As I recalled the unwarranted slap, I felt upset. I puffed out her cheeks and answered, "Why are you asking which side she hit? She already slapped me. Asking which side she slapped would not change anything. Dominic, if there is a next time, I will not take it like this. She's nobody to me, so why would I just let her slap me? Also, I do not know what you think of Camille, but I really dislike her. Can you promise me one thing? Don't ever let her appear in my sight. I won't bother her, so she better not come and cause me any trouble."

The room grew silent for a while before Dominic replied, "There won't be a second time. No one can bully you except me. I am the only one that can pick on you."

My heart skipped a few beats listening to the first part of his reply. However, I immediately became unhappy after hearing the rest of his words.

I gritted my teeth. "If only you retracted the last few words you just said, I will be very satisfied."

Dominic raised his eyebrows. There was a hint of warning in his tone. "It's not a good habit to push your luck."

Tch! He is not a good person. He did not even mention the matter about Camille.

I felt a little helpless as my heart sank. He is probably like his mother, who thought the best of Camille. Maybe he thought I did this purposely because I do not like her. Forget it. They have known her longer than the time Dominic and I are together. Although Camille is a pretentious hypocrite in front of me, it might not be the case when she is with them. I have already told them so much. It is up to them to choose whether to believe me or not.

But after this incident, I decided that as long as Camille was present in the future, I would not come close or say another word to her again.

After a while, Calvin finally settled the discharge procedures. We assisted Dominic in changing his clothes and then left the hospital.

Dominic's car crashed yesterday, so driving back was not a choice. Even if the car could be driven, I did not intend to let them drive. I wanted to take the high-speed rail, as it was fast and convenient.

After considering Dominic's arm injury, I requested Calvin to buy train tickets with seats at the back instead of finding the earliest timings.

Calvin did not take the train with us as he needed to stay to settle matters.

It was already mid-afternoon when Dominic and I returned to Lightspring.

When we left the station, Dominic asked me to return first as he wanted to go back home first.

After thinking for some time, I asked, "Are you coming back in the evening?"

He smiled arrogantly. "Liliana, could you not stand being away from me?"

I immediately rolled my eyes and felt I had talked too much.

"You don't need to come back. Take care of your mother, or she might cause trouble for me."

He looked at me for a while before reaching out a hand to pinch my face. "Cook dinner and wait for me at home."

I pushed away his hand and took a side glance at him. I replied curtly, "Who is going to cook and wait for you? Return after you have eaten. Your mother would not starve you."

"You can try and not cook."

At this moment, the taxi came, and I got into the car without replying to him.

When I got off in front of the supermarket, I felt exasperated that I had become someone with no backbone.

Although I had told myself to buy some ingredients to patronize Dominic, I ended up buying a bunch of ingredients, including a fish.

Fish is slimy. Just like that b*stard Dominic.

Back at home, I started making soup and got ready the ingredients required for dinner before waiting for Dominic to return so that I could cook them later.

I slumped on the couch, as I was tired from not sleeping the night before.

As I was able to fall asleep, my phone rang. It was my mom.

“Lili, how are you doing with Dom recently?”

“It’s been good. Mom, I haven’t slept for one whole night. If you don’t have anything else to say, I will hang up and sleep for a while.”

Upon hearing I had not slept, my mom started to nag about the same things that I had heard many times.

After a while, I could not hold it any longer and interrupted her, “Mom, I know. I will not pull all-nighters in the future.”

“I just said a few words, and you are annoyed. Let me tell you. The third of next month is your grandfather’s seventieth birthday. Remember to bring Dom here a day earlier so that we can go together.”

That’s right. I almost forgot about Grandpa’s birthday. However, I don’t feel like bringing Dominic.

However, I could not say this to my mom as she would definitely ask more questions.

I decided to agree but thought otherwise. I will just go by myself on that day and say that Dominic was busy and couldn’t make it.

After hanging up on Mom’s call, I lay on the couch as I felt sleepy. I dozed off after a while.

Dominic woke me up after he returned. He said crossly, “I asked you to cook and wait for me to return. But you were here sleeping so soundly.”

I rolled my eyes and did not respond to him, as I felt saying anything to a person without conscience was useless.

Does he not know the reason why I was so sleepy?

Luckily, I had prepared the ingredients earlier and just needed to cook them. The soup was also ready.

After I finished cooking, I called Dominic over. However, he sat at the table and stared at the food without eating.

“Why are you not eating? Do you get full from looking?”

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 136

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 136 Twisted Arm

Dominic gestured to his right arm, which was in a cast, and pointed out, "How am I supposed to eat with my arm like this?"

I challenged, "Then shall I get you a bigger spoon?"

He refuted with a straight face, "It doesn't matter what you get me. The injury is on my right hand."

"What is that supposed to mean? Do you expect me to feed you?"

He stopped talking, but the way he looked at me showed me that was exactly what he was expecting.

This freaking idiot of a man. Must he behave like a two-year-old? Would it kill him to make-do and eat with his left hand?

"Mr. Hartnell, can I ask you a question?"

Dominic was especially proud when he replied, "Go ahead."

"I can feed you for the day, but it'll take some time before you fully recover. You don't expect me to feed you forever, do you?"

Dominic's gaze brushed against me calmly before he replied, "You don't want to? If you refuse to do so, I will call Helen and tell her that you are mistreating me. I'm already injured. Yet, you refuse to take care of me."

Helen? As in my mom?

I glared at him. I could see, from the look of his eyes that he was genuine about calling my mom.

He is such a shameless oaf! I felt a sudden urge to smack his head with a tray at that moment.

In the end, I caved under his threat and fed him unwillingly but without complaining aloud.

I was especially annoyed as I fed him that last serving of soup.

Both women are mothers, yet my mom treats Dominic like a treasure while Milena saw me as trash. This is so unfair!

I glared at Dominic for quite some time and prayed that he could detect the hostility and the murderous intent in my eyes.

It didn't work. He didn't let me off the hook even when it was time to take a shower. His excuse was that it was inconvenient for him to shower with only one hand since he could not let the other get wet.

There was absolutely no way I could help him shower, though. In the end, we compromised, and I cleaned him up with a wet towel.

Even that level of intimacy was enough to get me so embarrassed that I almost died of shame.

Despite all that, he complained about how the place I rented was too small and claimed that he wouldn't need my help if the place could fit a tub.

Only the angels in heaven would know that, but I had to spend a f*cking lot of effort to stop myself from shoving his head into the bucket of water and drown his sorry a*s!

After busying away for an hour, Dominic was finally all satisfied and relaxed. Me? I was so exhausted that I didn't even want to talk.

The only comfort I had was that he couldn't do the dirty to me since his hand was injured. That meant that I could sleep well and without worries.

Unfortunately, I fell sick the following morning. How did I suddenly catch a cold?

D*rn it! Now one of us is injured while the other is sick. It's practically a hospital here.

I was rather strong physically, so I rarely fell sick. Unfortunately, when I did become ill, it would take me forever to recover.

Dominic complained about how I was being coquettish and dumb. I so wanted to kick his a*s when I heard that.

At night, I saw that he had returned, so I complained in slight distaste, "Oy, Dominic. I think it's better if you go home. Your place is so spacious, and there are people there who will cook and care for you. You even have a tub there, so you can bathe well. Things aren't so good for you here."

What I truly wanted to say was that my life would be so much easier if he would just f*ck off.

Dominic looked like he has seen through me. He sat down on the sofa and relaxed before he replied lazily, "It's true that my place is better in every way, but I'd enjoy life

more if I make you serve me. Maybe you should go to my place with me. That will be pretty awesome.”

F*ck him! Why would I want to go to his place? Milena is still there, so I'd just be walking into a death trap. I'd have to be a retard to do that!

Dominic smiled in amusement when he saw how I wasn't replying to him. That annoying smile made me feel like knocking his d*mned teeth off.

After we had our dinner, Dominic told me that I should start packing because we would be moving soon.

I was slightly taken aback, but I regained my footing soon enough. I demanded, “Why are we moving all of a sudden? And where are we moving to? I'm not going to your place!”

“I'm not asking you to move to my place. Gosh, why are you asking so many questions? Just pack up.”

You're asking me to move all of a sudden, so it's only natural that I ask for details, you idiot!

I ignored Dominic's requests and continued interrogating, “What about the rent? I prepaid the rent for a year. It'd be such a waste if I leave now. Also, just so we're clear, I'm not going to pay for the rent for the new place!”

Dominic replied generously, “Just get rid of this place. If the owner refuses to refund you, I will pay you the money you spent. As for everything else... Well, you don't need to care about them at all.”

Hearing his words got me delighted. Wow, the rich really are something else.

I spent the next couple of days packing my things, and when the weekend rolled by, Dominic and I moved to a new place.

We went to a condo in the city center.

Holy freaking hell! Even the tiniest place here costs a fortune. The rich really behave differently. He spent a fortune on a whim!

As for the place I was renting... Well, I actually thought about it, but in the end, I didn't cancel my lease agreement.

Dominic and I are interacting well now, but who knows how long this would last? If we fall apart, I would need a place to stay.

Time zipped by fast. My grandpa's seventieth birthday was right around the corner before I even knew it. I had already planned ahead but had no intention of sharing that information with Dominic.

I spent quite some time trying to figure out what to get grandpa for his birthday, though. In the end, I went a little over my budget and bought him an exquisite teapot set.

Grandpa enjoyed drinking tea, and I thought that he might like a nice teapot set.

My plan was to stay at my parents' place on the following day then head back to my family home with my parents on the day after. The party would be held near the family home.

That night, I told Dominic that I'd be busy and had to stay at the family home for two days. His gaze seemed a little strange when he looked at me, and I worried that he might've realized that I was lying. Fortunately, he didn't comment on anything in the end.

I got up earlier than usual the following morning, and Dominic woke up soon after I did.

It was ahead of his schedule, but I assumed that he got up early for work, so I didn't say anything.

Just as I was about to leave the house, Dominic stopped me. His expression was grouchy as he did so.

"Is there anything you'd like to share with me?"

I didn't quite catch what he meant at the time, so I asked, "What do you mean?"

Dominic sneered a little and complained, "I guess that means you truly are planning on heading home all on your own."

I was stunned for a moment there. That was when I realize that he knew it was my grandpa's birthday.

What the hell? How did he learn about this?

There was no way I'd tell him the truth, so I lied, "I only kept it a secret because I noticed how busy you have been at work. Besides, your hand is injured, and the party is in the village, so I worried that you'd be uncomfortable."

Dominic hummed in displeasure. He sounded a little annoyed and evil when he grumbled, "Stop making excuses. Have I been too nice to you lately? I've only been civil for three days and already you're causing a scene."

His words made me feel trapped. For a moment there, I felt like a wife who had just been stripped of her basic human rights.

I chuckled dryly and was strategizing about what to say next when my mom called.

After picking her call up, I discovered how Dominic knew about grandpa's birthday. D*mn it. When did she call him and let him know about this?

Things became more frustrating after I picked up the call. Turned out, my mom wasn't concerned about when I'd be home. Instead, the first thing she asked about was whether Dominic would be joining us.

Playing favorites at that level? It truly was annoying.

In the end, Calvin drove us to my parent's place, then left on his own.

I never had the chance to speak up after I get inside because Louis came running. He said, "Dom, there's my brother-in-law! You're finally here. I've been waiting forever for you."

What the hell? It's bad enough that this idiot doesn't call out to me, his big sister, first, but referring to the guy as his brother-in-law?

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 137

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 137 Kiss Me

I glared evilly at Louis before I walked up to him and slapped his arm.

"Oy, Louis Zanneti, what the hell is wrong with you? Why did you greet him before you come to me? And why were you waiting for him? When did the two of you become so close? Also, do not refer to him as your brother-in-law! He is not my husband as of now."

Louis pushed me aside and complained, "Lili, why are you being so violent? Geez, we've known each other for decades, so it's only normal that we've had enough of seeing each other's faces. It's different with Dom. The two of you are finally back together, and it's the first time I've seen him in forever.

"While we're on the topic, what's wrong with me calling him my brother-in-law? You two may not be married yet, but it'll happen eventually. It's just a timing matter."

The way Louis spoke made it sound like I would only ever be with Dominic. Things change! It's not like every other guy on Earth suddenly dropped dead.

“Louis Zanetti!”

I was both embarrassed and angry when I reached out to pinch that idiot’s ear. He was agile, though, so he slipped away and right to Dominic’s side.

That stupid baby brother of mine even winked at Dominic to elevate the problem and ask for help.

“Dom, you agree with me, don’t you?”

Dominic chuckled and replied, “You’re right. You’ll have to regard me as your brother-in-law sooner or later, so just speak as you like. Don’t listen to your sister, Lou. She’s just being shy.”

I glared over from the corner of my eye. Shy, my a*s!

And what the hell does he mean when he said that he will be the brother-in-law, eventually? Everything we have now is an illusion. It’s entirely possible that we will split again when he gets married!

A sting suddenly gripped my heart as that thought run past me.

Things had changed since I agreed to play along with Dominic. He had been mindlessly... or perhaps deliberately saying romantic things that got me feeling all warm and fuzzy. Unfortunately, those promises often left me broken-hearted.

There were times when I would find myself fantasizing about an impossible future as I relaxed.

I swayed a little, but I was quick to slap my face lightly to remind myself to return to reality.

When I turned toward Dominic, I saw that he was smiling warmly and sweetly. That got me so upset that I was tempted to head over and bite him.

Why the hell is he smiling so happily? He’s that delighted, huh?

Louis never listened to me. He just went around treating Dominic like a brother-in-law and seemed completely at ease about it.

“What happened to your arm, Dom? Has Lili turned that violent?”

I gritted my teeth and growled at Louis, “What the hell, Lou? Is that how you think of your big sister?”

“He’s right. Dom, how did you get injured? Oh, and you even had a cast on. Lili, why didn’t you tell me about this when I called earlier?”

My mom was exiting the kitchen with a plate of fruits at the time. When she saw that Dominic was bandaged, her smile turned upside down, and she seemed heartbroken. If a stranger was around, they would probably assume that Dominic was her biological son.

I instantly became speechless. Seriously? He’s just injured. Was I supposed to make an official announcement or some sh*t?

Dominic grinned and spoke up to comfort my mom. He said, “I’m fine, Helen. It’s just a minor injury.”

His words probably broke my mom’s heart even more because she reacted by leading him to the sofa to have him take a seat. She even called my dad and had him buy some supplements.

They sat there and had Dominic surrounded as they asked endless questions. I ended up being ignored at the side...

What the f*ck? I’m the biological daughter and sister here!

“Mom,” I called out, but no one responded.

I called out again, but still, no one replied to me. That got me so infuriated that I got up from the couch. I avoided Dominic’s injured arm and pulled at his other arm to get him up.

“Ah, Lili! What are you doing? Dom is injured, so you have to be gentler.”

“Lili, watch it. You don’t want Dom’s injury to exacerbate.”

My mom and brother were in unison and acted as if I was going to torture Dominic or something.

“Enough, both of you. I have something to tell him.”

My mom had a disapproving look on her face when she pointed out, “Then talk nicely. Why are you pulling him like that? The way you’re acting now means that you must not routinely take good care of him.”

“Mom!”

What the actual f*ck? Back then, I was reprimanded and banned from bullying Lou, and now I am to treat Dominic like a fragile baby? Is that it, then? Am I just a pitiful child that no one loves?

I turned around and saw how Dominic was grinning brightly. That worsened the anger in me and prompted me to drag him right into the bedroom.

Click! I locked the door and pushed him onto the bed before growling angrily, "Dominic Hartnell, you are not to brainwash my parents and baby brother anymore!"

Pfft! Dominic chuckled aloud and asked, "What's wrong? Are you jealous to see how Helen and Lou are treating me so well? There's really nothing I can do with it, though. I am born with the charisma that makes everyone love me."

"Can you stop being so narcissistic?" I demanded and harrumphed.

Dominic put on an exasperated expression, but his tone revealed that he was bragging when he said, "The truth that they like me more remains."

I instantly got so angry that I could feel the words stuck in my throat. Unfortunately, I couldn't find the right words to refute him.

That was the day I learned that the old wives' tale was true. Narcissistic a*sholes really were unbeatable.

It felt like my anger only served to make Dominic happier because he grinned at me after that. He even reached out and held my hand as he did so.

"Don't touch me, or I might just break your other arm!"

Dominic ignored me. He pulled me over and got me to fall onto his lap. Everything felt natural, and it was like it was our routine.

I worried that I would hurt his arm, so I didn't dare to resist too aggressively.

"Behave!" I warned evilly while glaring over.

He circled his arm around my waist. His beautiful eyes shone with warmth as his gaze focused on me. A hint of seduction was in his voice when he asked, "Or perhaps you're not jealous of them being nice to me? Maybe you're mad at me because I neglected you."

I didn't even think about it before I reached out to push his stupid face away and said, "Puh-lease! Like I would ever care about you? You know what? Forget about it. I'm too tired to argue with you. Let's head out."

After saying my piece, I stood up to leave, but Dominic's hold on my waist tightened.

"What are you doing? Let go!"

He had me pinned and shoved his face closer to mine as his lips curved into a small grin. His voice was soft when he asked, "You dragged me all the way over, and now you want to leave just like this?"

I was slightly taken aback. I learned what he was really saying, so I turned my face around and demanded, "Don't make a scene!"

He forced me to turn my face back to him. His thumb caressed my lips before he offered, "You can leave if you want. All you have to do is kiss me, and I will let you go... for now."

I stared at him and thought that he might be a lunatic. Is this guy alright? He's already injured and in a cast, but still, he won't behave. All he can think about is doing the dirty.

"Not even in your dreams! Why would I kiss you?"

Dominic's eyes shone with a hint of glee when he threatened, "If you don't, I will initiate the kiss myself. Just don't blame me if I lose control later."

I could feel my face burning red. Lose control... he might actually make good on his threat.

I had no choice but to compromise. Fine, it's just a kiss.

"Okay, but keep your word. We'll leave once I kiss you, and you won't do anything else!"

Dominic didn't reply, but his expression showed that he was waiting, so I closed my eyes and kissed him.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 138

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 138 Prayed They Would Be Nice To Me

That was not the first time we kissed. Even if we ignored the countless times we kissed when we were dating, there were also the infinite times we kissed after we got reunited.

When we were dating, I would take the initiative to kiss him too, but he had always been the one to make the first move after we reunited.

Hence, I felt a little shy about kissing him, and I could feel my face turning red. What truly worried me, though, was the way my heart was thumping wildly as I kissed him.

At first, I planned on simply brushing my lips against his, but Dominic pinned the back of my head and locked me in place.

I leaned in his arms and panted after the intense kiss. It took me some time before I catch my breath.

His tone was ever so ambiguous when he whispered into my ear, "That is how a kiss is supposed to be. How many times do I have to teach you before you learn that lesson?"

I was already panicking, so his tease messed me up even more. I lost control and pushed him away without paying attention.

I stumbled out of his arms and was some distance away when I saw him holding his injured arm like he was in a lot of pain.

"Ah, how are you? Did I hit you? Does it hurt? Should we head to the hospital?"

It was likely I actually hurt him because sweat was flowing out of his forehead.

He was supposed to take it slow for a hundred days, and it was crucial that he recuperate. I genuinely worried that he wouldn't recover if he got injured again.

Dominic gritted his teeth and grumbled, "Liliana, if you're going to kill me, then at least give me a quick death!"

I was worried, but I was also angry. I also refused to admit defeat, so I refuted, "I-I didn't do it on purpose. Besides, you can't put all the blame on me. You're the one who can't control yourself and keeps thinking the dirty."

Dominic stared calmly at me without saying a word.

I walked over and carefully helped him up. After that, I asked, "How are you feeling now? Maybe we should head over to the hospital to have your hand examined. You better stay here instead of following us along to the village tomorrow. I'll ask Calvin to come to pick you up."

"I'm fine for now," replied Dominic as he reached out and pinched my face. He spoke slowly and clearly when he threatened, "I will keep a mental note of what happened today and will get back at you in the future."

After saying his piece, he let me go and opened the bedroom door.

F*ck! He's going to make a mental note of something so small? What the hell did I even do?

I chased after him to demand an explanation, but Dominic was already sitting on the couch with my dad when I left the room.

My dad looked worried and was pointing at Dominic's injured arm while asking some questions.

D*mn that Dominic! He's trying to make himself look good in front of my dad.

I walked over and greeted, "Hey dad. You're back."

My dad turned around and replied, "Yeah. Lili, go help your mom get the supplements ready and ask her to use the new blender. That way, Dom can drink the supplement quicker and recover soon."

Dominic took advantage of the situation and timed it perfectly. He sounded ever so sweet when he said, "Thank you, David. My arm is actually fine. Besides, I'm still a young fellow, so I'll recover soon."

Hearing that got my dad to shake his head and replied, "That won't do. You know, if I had known that you're injured, I would've asked Helen to prepare everything beforehand. Lili never really cooked at home, so she must not have taken good care of you.

"Drink up tonight. The supplements will help heal you up."

The way my dad was acting so worried and asking endless questions... D*mn, Dad is just as bad as Mom.

Why is everyone being so nice to Dominic? I hate this.

I was fuming a little as I marched into the kitchen. There, I saw my mom washing the vegetable, so I got a small stool and sat down beside her.

"Mom, why are you and Dad being so nice to Dominic? He's an adult, so he can take care of himself. You didn't need to do all this extra stuff for him. Also, neither you nor Dad are paying attention to me, even though I am right here."

My mom shot an amused look at me and grinned. She commented, "Sweetie, why are you acting like this? Dom is injured, but he is still making the effort to celebrate your grandpa's birthday with everyone. Under those circumstances, it's only right that I cook for him."

"Yeah, but everybody is going overboard." I was still extremely annoyed at the time.

My mom giggled aloud and teased, "Are you jealous?"

I knew that I was being immature, but still, I replied, "Yes, I am! Everyone has been circling around him since this morning. No one even asked about how I'm doing. Mom, I caught a cold!"

"My gosh, you really are..." said my mom before she trailed off. She looked a little exasperated at that moment.

That upset me even more, so I complained, "What? It's not like my description is inaccurate. It's true that everyone is circling around him. Everyone is so worried about him that it is ridiculous."

"He is your boyfriend and your future husband, so shouldn't we be nice to him?"

I muttered, "But no one was as nice to Julius. What is it about Dominic that got everyone so into him?"

My mom paused suddenly and dropped the vegetable she was washing. She sighed a little.

"I'm sorry, Mom. Let's not think about that guy."

I regretted being that immature and straightforward after hearing my mom sigh.

Julius was a bit of a taboo with my family at the time.

"Your dad and I sometimes talk about Julius after the two of you got divorced. We wondered if it was our fault. Perhaps we weren't kind enough to him and his mother. Maybe that is what prompted him to do something so vile to you.

"Your dad and I really like Dom, and we are delighted to see the two of you together. We genuinely think that he is someone who will take care of you for the rest of your life. Unfortunately, the truth at the end of the day is that you are a divorcee. Dom doesn't seem to mind, but there's no saying what his family actually thinks about that.

"That is why we are all being nice to him. Yes, we genuinely care about him, but we also wish that his family will learn about this. That way, they would be discouraged from treating you badly."

I was completely stunned because I never imagined that my parents had considered the issues that far into the future.

"Mom, I..."

I suddenly lost control and teared up a little. I was also tempted to tell her the truth.

However, I knew that my family wouldn't be able to handle it if I reveal the truth at that moment.

That was why I swallowed the words at the tip of my tongue.

My mom wiped my tears away for me and grinned while teasing, "Why are you crying suddenly? You're like a kid. So embarrassing."

"I will always be a kid to you, and it doesn't matter how old I actually am. No one should think that it's embarrassing."

"Seriously? Are you going to say that you're just chubby if I had said that you've gained weight?" challenged my mom as she rolled her eyes at me.

We talked a lot after that, but she was mostly worried about what Dominic and I had planned for the future. She even reminded me to tell her right away if we accidentally got pregnant. She would rush to help us with the wedding.

Unfortunately, my mom was being too straightforward, so I felt embarrassed.

That afternoon, we went to the shopping mall.

Dominic and I held hands as we browsed around. That was when we bumped into someone we knew.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 139

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 139 If He Bought It For Me

"Dominic, Liliana... are you two back together?"

I was genuinely surprised when I saw Vicky and her shocked expression. I never expected to see her there.

My first instinct was to break free of Dominic's hold, but he refused to let go of my hand.

What the hell? Does he not know that we should avoid causing misunderstandings?

Everyone saw that he and Camille were together when we were at the class reunion. Heck, we even got into a fight at the time.

Given our past, everyone would make terrible assumptions!

I grinned awkwardly and scanned around before replying, "What a coincidence. Are you here to buy some stuff too?"

Everyone was an adult who had worked a couple of years, so we were all political and adhered to the social rules. I could tell that Vicky was still curious, but she was quick to hide it away. She even rolled along and continued the conversation and topic I started.

We were all busy, so we didn't chat for long.

Vicky later waved at me and claimed, "Let's hang out and have a meal together some time. Oh, and if you two ever get married, remember to inform me of the wedding date beforehand. We can get all our classmates over and make it a grand party."

I wasn't sure if Vicky was being genuine, so I didn't give her a clear response. After that, I dragged Dominic away.

I turned to Dominic when Vicky was no longer within our line of sight. Frustrated, I complained, "Why didn't you let go of my hand earlier? What will you do if she bulls*ts to others?"

"You might think that it was timely, but she saw us holding hands ages ago," replied Dominic nonchalantly.

Okay, you're right about that, but we should've still let go!

"Okay, so you're a brave dude with zero fears, but I am warning you right now! Deal with your mom and Camille accordingly and don't let them come after me."

The mere mention of Milena got me caressing my face instinctively. At that point, I was practically traumatized.

Dominic suddenly stopped walking. He crouched down and gave me a soft peck on my lips. That stiffened me immediately.

What the f*ck? We're in the mall, and everyone is watching!

Dominic draped his arms over my shoulders and as he led me ahead, he promised, "I told you. I am the only one who will ever bully you."

When I came around, I ignored everything and dragged Dominic out of the place.

Ah, that is so embarrassing! How is he staying so calm?

When we met up with everyone else, Lou asked curiously, "Lili, what's up with your face? Is that an allergic reaction?"

As he spoke, he reached out to touch and check my cheek. I pushed my brother aside and complained, "Ah, go away. I'm not allergic. I'm j-just a little hot."

This is all Dominic's fault, but he's standing there all calm like nothing had happened.

"Enough, you two. You're both adults, so stop making a scene," scolded my dad sternly to stop us both.

I stopped talking, and Louis became quiet after he stuck his tongue out at me.

After shopping for quite some time, my dad bought two boxes of luxurious tea. Huh, what a coincidence. That would match the teapot set I got grandpa.

Two boxes of tea didn't seem enough, so my dad added a monetary gift to it.

"Oy, aren't you supposed to prepare a present for my grandpa's birthday? You're coming along, after all," I deliberately teased as I nudged Dominic.

He hadn't even replied before my mom scolded, "What is there to prepare? Dom is there as our guest, so there is no need for him to get anything. Don't listen to her, Dom."

I pouted a little. What is she so nervous about? It's not like Dominic is broke or anything. Besides, who would go to a birthday party empty-handed?

Dominic grinned brightly at me and replied, "Don't worry. It's the first time I'm meeting your grandfather, and it's his birthday, so there is no way I'd go empty-handed. I won't embarrass you or your parents."

After he said his piece, I noticed, from the corner of my eye, that my dad was nodding in approval.

I wasn't bothered by that. Instead, I was curious. I wanted to know what Dominic prepared, but he didn't tell me. He simply gave me a mysterious grin.

We left after we bought everything we need.

When we walked out of the mall, I caught sight of the branded store on the other side of the road. It was a Cardill store.

Cardill... their products were crazy expensive, and I've seen a few photos of their products in the magazines before. The actual item itself, however, was beyond my reach.

Most women liked pretty and shiny objects and tended to fantasize about things. I was one of them.

As I stared at the poster in the shop, I fantasized. If Dominic were to buy me a gift from that store...

I was still lost in my own world when I heard Dominic asking my parents and Louis to wait for a while.

After saying his piece, Dominic led me across the road while I was still in a daze.

He was going to lead me into the Cardill store when I finally came around.

I stopped him and tugged at him before demanding, "Dominic, why did you take me over?"

"Why do you think? We're here to buy some stuff. Hurry. Your parents are waiting."

Yeah, I figured we're here to buy some stuff, but... is he buying me a ring?

I suddenly panicked and did everything I could to drag Dominic away.

"What the hell are we buying? I don't even like rings. Come on, Dominic. Let's go home."

I wanted one, but I couldn't afford it, nor could I get myself to ask for it. More than anything, I worried that I wouldn't be able to resist asking for even more as time passed.

"When have I ever said that I'm heading in to buy you a ring?" refuted Dominic while wearing a strange expression on his face. He dragged me into the store with ease.

Hearing his response got me lost. I asked, "Didn't you say that you're going to buy some stuff? Cardill is famous for its rings, right?"

Dominic stared for a while before he grinned meaningfully and replied, "Cardill specializes in rings, but that is not the only thing they offer. Do you want a ring from me? Are you that eager to marry me?"

I was instantly speechless. Gah, this is so embarrassing!

"I-I'm not a rich woman, so how would I know what the store actually sells? The posters can be misleading sometimes. Whatever the case, I don't want anything from there."

Dominic pulled me along and replied, "You can forget about the ring. It's a gift meant for wives, so there is no way I'd buy it on a whim. Still, I can get you a small gift since you've been treating me so well lately."

A gift meant for wives... Hearing those words stung my heart, and I felt terrible.

I am such an idiot. How many times have I warned myself against having stupid fantasies? Why won't I listen to my own advice?

Camille is Dominic's future wife, so she is the one he will buy a ring for.

As for me... Well, I am not allowed to have any fantasies about him.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 140

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 140 So He Could Sleep Well

Dominic dragged me into the store and waved generously. He even told me to choose whatever I like.

The way he spoke got the saleslady to smile ever so brightly.

Before we got into the store, I was proudly claiming that I didn't want anything. Actually seeing those bright, sparkly accessories bedazzled me, though.

The saleslady worked especially hard to recommend all sorts of diamonds to me. Those sparks practically blinded me.

I was actually having a hard time and thought that everything looked wonderful... with prices that match them ever so "wonderfully".

Before we entered the store, Dominic made things clear and told me to forget about getting a ring. However, seeing those sparkly gemstones resting on the velvet display still got me to turn my attention over.

The saleslady was observant, and when she caught me looking at those rings, she picked a few out for me to test it.

I wanted to reject her offer, but my instinct overtook me. Before I knew it, I had already slipped one into my finger.

It's stunning...

Everything became more natural after I took that first step. I ended up trying out a few rings.

Perhaps it was because it caught my eye first, but I loved the first ring I tried on.

Its diamond wasn't as big as the others, but its design was especially breathtaking. The tiny diamonds spread out like stars in the Milky Way, and it made it impossible for me to look away.

"Your finger is beautiful, and your hand is soft, so the ring matches you perfectly. These styles fit you well. Shall we get your husband over to take a look as well?"

The saleslady's words instantly cleared my mind up.

It didn't matter how beautiful they were. They will never be mine.

"It's fine. P-please show me something else. A bracelet or a necklace, for example."

The saleslady seemed a little disappointed, but she led me to another display section like a pro.

That was when Dominic walked over. His tone carried a hint of impatience when he demanded, "Have you made a choice yet?"

I suddenly felt guilty and worried that he'd learn about how I tried the rings earlier.

"Uhm, I'm not sure what to choose. Do it for me, will you?" I asked as I headed over.

"You are so troublesome."

Dominic seemed a little reluctant, but he ended up getting me a necklace.

He pushed my hair aside as we stood in front of the mirror and helped me put it on.

"Not bad. We'll take it. Just keep it on. I'll go pay for everything now."

When Dominic went to pay for the necklace, I stood in front of the mirror and checked everything out. Huh, he's got good taste.

I couldn't help shifting my gaze to the corner where the ring was displayed. At the end of the day, that ring was still my favorite.

Ah, forget about it. What's the point of thinking about it? It's nice enough that he's buying me this necklace because it costs a fortune.

After we left the store, we stood and waited for the traffic light to turn green. Dominic turned to me at the time to warn, "Keep this necklace safe and do not take it off. You are not allowed to lose it, you hear me?"

I hid the necklace under my shirt before replying sarcastically, "Okay, okay, I will wear it every day and every hour. I won't even take it off when I shower." After that, I added,

“You don’t actually need to remind me, though. I will take care of it, anyway. It’s way too expensive, and I’d feel bad if I lose it.”

When we got back and met up with my parents, that stupid brother of mine immediately asked, “Lili, Dom, were you two in there earlier to buy a ring? Are you getting married? Dom, are you proposing to my sister?”

I was so tempted to knock him out.

“What the hell are you talking about? Quit bullsh*tting. It’s way too early, so don’t talk nonsense.”

When I turned to my parents, I sensed that they might’ve been hoping that Dominic had proposed as well.

I let go of Dominic’s hand and went over to hug my mom’s arm. After that, I revealed the necklace and asked, “See? He got me this. What do you think, Mom?”

My mom smiled and nodded before commenting, “It’s beautiful. Wear it well and don’t show it off all the time. It would make you a thief’s target.

“It must’ve cost you a fortune, Dom. Thank you, but don’t waste money unnecessarily all the time, okay?”

Dominic grinned. His eyes shone with a loving glow when he replied, “It’s not that expensive. I’m just glad Lian likes it.”

I pouted a little. He made it sound so nice, but he never got me the item I wanted the most.

“Mom, you don’t need to be heartbroken for him. He’s loaded, and he’s supposed to buy me gifts, anyway.”

My mom pinched me a little and scolded, “Don’t gloat, and remember to be nicer to Dom.”

So at the end of the day, you’re still siding with him...

“Mom, I am already nice to him. You can ask him if you don’t believe me.”

Naturally, Dominic wouldn’t make me look bad in front of my parents.

At home, my mom told me and Louis to pack up after we had our dinner. We needed to get ready for our trip to the family home.

After some time, my mom got some new bedsheets and handed them to me.

“Lili, your dad and I talked about it. We think we should renovate the house.”

I couldn't make heads or tails of what was going on, so I asked, “Why the sudden urge to renovate? I think everything looks great, and it'd be troublesome to renovate the place.”

Dominic happened to enter the room at the time.

My mom looked at the both of us before answering, “Your room is too small, and so is your bed. It's fine if you're sleeping on your own, but it's too cramped if you're going to share it with Dom. Everyone will have to make-do for tonight, but once the holidays are over, we will get someone to renovate the place. Maybe we can figure out a way to make this room bigger.”

My mom's careless choice of words got my cheeks to burn with so much shame that I was practically crispy.

So, unless I somehow misinterpreted that, they're renovating the place just so Dominic and I can sleep better together...

What the hell? D*mn it. What do I freaking do?

My mom grinned at Dominic and said, “Dom, you'll have to make-do tonight. Everything will be just right when you visit the next time.”

I was already speechless when my mom talked about renovating the place. Dominic's strange response made things even worse for me.

That idiot is actually telling my mom to stay with us while this house is being renovated! Ah, and he mentioned that we're living in the luxurious condo he just bought.

Dominic also offered to handle the house's renovation and told my parents not to worry about anything.

Hearing all that got my mind to spin. I felt like I was no longer on the same page... or even the same freaking book as them!

My mom claimed that she needed to discuss the matter with my dad, but I could tell that she was tempted.

When she finally left the room, I turned to Dominic and demanded a valid reason for making those offers. His answer was that it was just a simple matter since the condo was big enough for everyone to stay.

I was genuinely speechless about that. Okay, fine. I'll just wait and see what disaster they'll cook up in the end.

We had to wake up early the following morning, so we went to bed early.

Calvin dropped by before we left that morning. He had dozens of bags with him. Those are probably for Dominic.

We traveled for a couple of hours before we finally reached the village and saw my grandpa in the family home.