

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 151

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 151 | Am Sorry

In any case, Dominic's plan did not sit well with me. I was still in favor of going to the hospital, where Shannon would have a better chance of getting the treatment she needed. With all their fancy equipment and medical personnel, surely someone would be able to help her?

Alas, Dominic just had to dash whatever little hope I had left. "Knowing what Quinn is like, I'm sure the medicine he used would baffle even the best doctors. Other than finding Shannon a man to satisfy her urges, there's no other way."

Upon hearing that, I felt even more conflicted than before. What am I supposed to do? If Shannon finds out that I got a man to sleep with her, she'll kill me!

As if right on cue, Shannon started pawing and rubbing against me—a clear sign that her condition was worsening with every passing second.

I hastily flung her wandering hands away and patted her face. "Shannon, stay awake! Do you know who I am?"

Shannon stared blankly at me for a long while before mumbling, "Liliana? Liliana, I feel so hot all over. Quinn is..."

As her voice trailed off, I pulled her into a tight embrace and comforted her, "It's okay, it's okay. Quinn isn't here. We've chased him away."

However, Shannon ignored me and continued to squirm in my arms while complaining about how hot she felt.

"Shannon, you've been drugged," I said. "What do you want me to do? Must I really get a man for you?"

I wasn't sure if she could even register what I had said, but given how odd the "cure" was, it would only be right to ask for her permission.

"I feel so terrible... Liliana, help me. Please help me..."

"I want to help you, too, but the only solution is to get you a man," I replied begrudgingly. "Shannon, are you sure about that?"

Even though Shannon merely grunted in response, it was good enough of an acknowledgment for me.

Okay, but what now? Where am I going to find a man for her? I can't rope in any Tom, Dick, or Harry, can I?

Just then, I had a light-bulb moment as my eyes wandered over to Calvin. "Umm... Calvin, would you consider..."

In my eyes, Calvin was the perfect candidate. If I had to find Shannon a man, it would at least have to be someone trustworthy like him.

Moreover, Calvin had the looks and the brains. If the interaction led to them developing feelings for each other, wouldn't that be a happier ending?

Unfortunately, my suggestion came more as a shock to Calvin as he accidentally swerved the car.

That immediately earned me a glare from Dominic. "Leave my assistant alone!"

"But why can't I ask Calvin?" I retorted. "At least with him, I feel more at ease. Who else am I supposed to ask, if not him? You?"

"You can try," Dominic said through gritted teeth.

Annoyed, I held my tongue.

Fine. It's not like I was seriously going to ask Dominic to step up to the task. I was too frustrated to think straight. But now, I'm completely out of ideas. Who else can I ask?

Just then, Calvin stopped the car in front of an apartment building, much to my surprise.

It was a building I had never been to before, which made me all the more curious as to why we were there.

Dominic quickly ordered Calvin to carry Shannon out of the car while pulling me along with him.

"Where are we? Aren't we supposed to be helping Shannon?"

"Why else would we be here if not for helping her? Can't you see she's almost at the tipping point? We can't drag this on anymore."

I knew Dominic was right as I turned to look at Shannon. If she didn't get the help she needed soon, consequences would undoubtedly be dire.

It was also a good thing that Calvin was around to offer assistance because I was sure I would not be able to hold Shannon up in her current state.

As soon as we entered the elevator, my curiosity got the better of me. "So, who lives here? Can he be trusted? And what if he declines to help? I mean, no matter how you see it, this is a weird request."

"Benjamin Chance."

Dominic's reply left me reeling with disbelief. Did I hear it right? Benjamin lives here? Does that mean Dominic intends to ask him for help?

I had to admit that Benjamin was a good option. But will he readily agree to something so odd?

Once the elevator reached the twenty-third floor, Dominic made a beeline for a particular unit and rang the doorbell.

In just a few seconds, Benjamin answered the door.

"Woah, this is a surprise!" he exclaimed when he saw us. "You wouldn't be here for no reason, though. What's going on?"

Ha, clever guy. He hit the nail on the head.

To say I was embarrassed would be an understatement, but somehow, Dominic remained unfazed.

"We need your help."

"Oh," Benjamin replied, stepping aside to make way for us. "Come in then."

"No need for that," Dominic muttered as he shot a knowing look at Calvin.

Before Benjamin could react, Shannon was already clinging onto him and touching him all over.

"Ahh... It's hot. Feels so good, mmm."

It was getting increasingly hard to watch and I was about to step in to help when Dominic pulled me away.

Benjamin froze in his tracks, staring wide-eyed at us.

"T-This... What's the meaning of this?"

I, too, was at a loss for words, but thankfully, Dominic had no such problem.

He calmly pushed Shannon and Benjamin into the apartment and said, "She's all yours tonight. You can get Yvonne to check on her after."

With that, he slammed the door shut and led me back to the elevator with Calvin in tow.

Even as we made our way down the building, I couldn't shake off my worries. "Should we be doing this? It doesn't seem fair to either of them. What if Shannon blames me for this?"

"She'll only be thankful that you saved her," Dominic replied coolly.

That might be the case, but morally speaking, I still didn't think it was right. "What about Benjamin? He-"

"He should be thanking his lucky stars. What's there for him to complain about?"

Dominic made everything sound so easy, yet it did nothing to quell the headache that had crept up on me.

Just as we were about to reach the first floor, Dominic's phone rang. To my surprise, not only did he not answer it, but he also turned his phone off.

Then, he turned toward me and said, "Turn yours off too."

Alas, in my moment of hesitation, my phone started ringing, too. To make matters worse, the caller was none other than Benjamin.

That made me even more sure that Benjamin was the one who called Dominic earlier. Unlike Dominic, I just could not bring myself to shrug it off.

"Hello-"

That was all I managed to say when Benjamin angrily interrupted, "Liliana, what are you and Dominic trying to do? Is this a joke? Get back here right now and take her away!"

As I pondered my reply, I could hear him getting increasingly desperate. "Shannon Harper, stop touching me! Get your hands off me! Shannon!"

I closed my eyes and mustered up the most apologetic tone I could. "I'm sorry!"

Argh! If Shannon blames me for this, I don't think she'll ever forgive me!

The guilt weighed on me so much that it kept me up all night. Even when morning came around, I still could not decide if I should call to check on things.

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 152 Lie Low

I was sitting in a daze and staring at my phone when Dominic suddenly reached out to snatch it away.

“Hey, give me back my phone! I need to call Shannon.”

Sadly, my words fell on deaf ears as Dominic proceeded to toss my phone onto the chaise lounge. “Don’t bother calling. She must have had quite a night. Shouldn’t you let her rest?” he said while wrapping his arms around me.

Once again, Dominic’s bluntness left me speechless.

“Shannon will look for you when she wakes up, so what’s the hurry? For now, can we get some more sleep? I still have work to do later.”

As much as I wanted to get in touch with Shannon, Dominic had a point, too. It might be a better idea for her to come to me than the other way around.

Besides, Dominic did seem busy the night before when I dragged him away to look for Shannon. The more I thought about it, the more worried I was that I might have ruined his plans.

“Did I hold you up last night?”

“Yes, a little,” Dominic drawled. “So, to make it up to me, will you please come to bed now?”

Indeed, it was all thanks to him that everything was settled the night before. With Dominic being so busy recently, letting him sleep in would be the least I could do.

Eventually, even I managed to drift off to sleep.

When I woke up, it was already past two in the afternoon. Dominic was long gone. To my surprise, Shannon had not called, either.

Argh. Until now, I still have no idea what drug Quinn had given her.

After much contemplation, I decided that if I still had not heard from Shannon by night, I would make the call myself.

With that, I grabbed some food and buried myself in work.

Sometime after five in the evening, Dominic called to say that he would not be home for the night.

It did not faze me one bit; he was most probably caught up in work from the night before.

After hanging up on Dominic, I decided that it was time to call Shannon. I hadn't heard a peep from her for so long that the anxiety was driving me crazy.

However, when my call went through, the one who answered was a very disgruntled Benjamin instead of Shannon.

"What do you want?"

Oh, gosh, this is awkward. I didn't think Shannon would still be with him! "Umm... Are you and Shannon okay?"

Just like that, Benjamin erupted in anger.

"No! Nothing about this is okay! Just wait and see. I'm going to get back at you and Dominic for this!"

The line went dead immediately after, leaving me stunned and perplexed.

As I gawked at the phone, I knew that it would be some time before I dared to call again.

It wasn't that I was a disloyal friend, but with Benjamin's anger meter through the roof, it would be far wiser for me to stay out of his way until he calmed down.

Still, I could not help but send Shannon a text. In the text, I urged her to call me as soon as possible.

Being at the receiving end of Benjamin's outburst had made me lose all the motivation to work on my sketches. Since the fridge was also empty, I decided to go grocery shopping.

Just as I was browsing the aisles of the supermarket, Nicholas' grandmother, Monica, surprised me with a call.

The last time I left, she had made me promise to visit her more often in the future and even asked me for my number.

Unfortunately, I had been in a spot of bother ever since and had not had the time to make good on my word. Now that she was calling me, a wave of guilt crashed over me.

Oh, no. Could something have happened to her?

“Hello, Mrs. Scott.”

“Oh, Lili. It’s been so long. Why haven’t you come to see me? It makes me so upset just thinking about it.”

“I’m so sorry, Mrs. Scott,” I hurriedly explained. “I’ve been rather busy recently so I forgot about it. Please don’t be mad. How about I drop by tomorrow with some nice food for you?”

Monica chuckled in response. “No, no. Let’s not wait till tomorrow. Why don’t you come over now and have dinner with me?”

I laughed out loud in that instant, tickled by how impatient and insistent Monica was.

Then again, Dominic wouldn’t be home and I had nothing better to do, which made dinner with Monica sound all the more enticing.

“Sure, I’ll head over now.”

“Oh, excellent! I’ll be waiting for you then. Come quick!” Monica replied, her tone cheerier than before.

With my dinner plan settled, I grabbed a bag of fruits instead and promptly left after making payment.

When I finally arrived at Monica’s, I was shocked to find her waiting for me at the door.

“Mrs. Scott, why are you standing here? It’s freezing outside. What if you catch a cold?”

Monica merely smiled as she pulled me into the house. “Please, I’m as healthy as a horse. I won’t catch a cold that easily. I’ve missed you so much that I wanted to see you as soon as possible.”

“Sorry, it’s my fault,” I replied sheepishly. “I promised to visit you often, but I haven’t done so at all.”

“There, there, it’s okay. I know how busy you youngsters are. That rascal Nicky hasn’t dropped by for a long time too. Come on, time for dinner! I made ravioli today! I hope you like it, Lili.”

Upon hearing that, I nodded enthusiastically. “I love it! Back when I was still living at home, my mother used to make ravioli often, too.”

“Good, good. I’m glad you like it. You’ll have to eat more later!”

I went on to help Monica boil the ravioli as she told me how she had made everything from scratch, from the dough to the filling and the shaping.

Alas, the more I heard, the more my heart ached. Monica wasn't getting any younger. Judging by how much my mother used to complain when she made ravioli for us, I knew it was no easy task.

Furthermore, Monica had made a lot of it.

"Mrs. Scott, don't do this on your own in the future. It's too much work; I don't want you to tire yourself out. It'd kill Nicholas if he knew about it."

Monica smiled as she filled my plate with ravioli. "It's fine. Making ravioli's no problem at all."

After a pause, she added, "Lili, I've also packed some in a lunchbox. Can you take it to Nicky later? That boy loves my homemade ravioli. Today's his birthday, but he's too busy to come by."

I stared at Monica, totally confused. Nicholas' birthday? But that's not the date he told the public.

"Isn't his birthday on the twentieth of December? That's still more than ten days away."

Monica smiled and shook her head. "I always celebrate it with him early, so it has become our tradition. Is it okay if you helped me deliver it?"

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 153 Birthday Celebration

In all honesty, I was worried about running into the paparazzi if I brought the ravioli to Nicholas. However, how could I possibly turn down a kind, old lady who was only eager to celebrate her grandson's birthday?

As such, I eventually acceded to Monica's request. It's fine. I'll just be extra careful when I get there.

After dinner, I had planned on staying to chat with Monica, only to have her insist that I leave early so the ravioli wouldn't turn cold.

Soon, I bade my goodbye and left for Nicholas' place.

Along the way, I chanced upon a cake shop, which gave me an idea. Since it's his birthday, it wouldn't be right to show up without a cake, would it?

Having made up my mind, I went ahead and bought a chocolate mousse cake, not even knowing if Nicholas would like it or not.

With ravioli and a cake in tow, I realized it would be better to ask Nicholas for his whereabouts lest I made a trip in vain.

"Hey, Nicholas, it's me. Are you still on set?"

"No, I'm not feeling too well, so I'm staying home today," Nicholas replied while coughing. "What's the matter?"

He was coughing so much that I could not help but worry about his condition. "What's wrong with you? Down with a cold?"

"Yes, but it's not serious."

Given how badly he was coughing, there was no way I would have believed him.

"So you're at home in South Hill? Have you taken medicine?"

Nicholas once again went into a coughing fit before croaking, "I've run out of cold medicine at home. I fell asleep in the afternoon and haven't gone out to buy more."

Well, that's not right. I can't let a patient head out to get his own medicine.

"All right. Just stay home and rest. I'll get your medicine. Anyway, your grandmother has also asked me to bring something to you. Let the security guards know I'll be popping by soon. I don't want to be stuck outside."

"Okay. I'll wait for you."

As soon as I ended the call, I popped into the nearest pharmacy and ended up with a few types of medicines since I was not sure about Nicholas' exact symptoms.

With all the necessary items finally in hand, I hailed a cab and made my way to his villa in South Hill.

My worries about running into paparazzi also gradually dissipated as I realized how much tighter the security at Nicholas' villa was, compared to that on sets.

The moment the cab pulled in front of the villa, I immediately got out and walked toward the guardhouse.

“You must be Ms. Zanetti,” the security guard greeted politely. “Mr. Scott has already informed me of your visit. Please come in; I’ll send you to Mr. Scott’s villa.”

My head was reeling and it took a moment for me to regain composure. “Ahh... T-Thank you so much. Sorry to trouble you.”

This villa sure is different! Not only are the security guards more professional, but they even send you right to the doorstep!

Before long, the guard had dropped me off at the villa entrance where Nicholas was already patiently waiting.

“How did you know I’ve arrived?” I asked curiously.

Nicholas gave a little chuckle. “The guard notified me as soon as you stepped out of the cab. That was why when I heard the sounds outside, I knew it had to be you.”

“Oh, I see... Hey, I don’t need your help with these! They aren’t heavy at all. You’re the patient, for goodness’ sake. I’ve got this!” I exclaimed and hastily turned away when Nicholas tried to reach for my shopping bags.

Once I entered the living room, my gaze immediately fell onto the pile of blankets on the couch. “Have you been sleeping on the couch the whole afternoon? You’re quite the stubborn patient, aren’t you?”

“Oh, give me a break. I was too tired and ended up here in my daze.”

“Well, I’m glad you still remembered to fetch a blanket in your daze,” I chided. “Nicholas, you have to take better care of yourself. If Mrs. Scott finds out about this, she’s going to give you an earful!”

“Haha, why else do you think I kept it from her? Now you have to help me keep it a secret too. By the way, you said Grandma had something for me. What is it?”

I smacked my forehead as I suddenly recalled the food that Monica wanted me to deliver.

Without hesitation, I handed the lunchbox to Nicholas before pointing at the cake I had bought. “It’s your birthday, so Mrs. Scott made your favorite ravioli and asked me to bring them to you. I even bought a cake on the way here. I hope you like chocolate.”

Nicholas gave me a quizzical look. “My birthday?”

“Oh, my. Don’t tell me you forgot about it? Mrs. Scott said she has always celebrated your birthday early instead of on the exact day.”

Still somewhat perplexed, Nicholas had to check the date on his phone before everything finally became clear to him.

“Argh! I did forget about it. In the past, Grandma would always remind me, but I’ve just been too busy this year.”

I pushed the ravioli toward him and broke into a wide grin. “It’s still not too late to remember it. Go on, eat your food before it turns cold. I’ve had it earlier and it was delicious. Mrs. Scott said you love her homemade ravioli the most.”

Nicholas nodded with a smile and happily tucked into his dinner, scoffing down everything in just a blink of an eye.

From the looks of it, he did indeed love his grandmother’s ravioli. I also wouldn’t be surprised if that was his first meal of the day.

“All right, give your grandmother a call,” I reminded. “I’ll get the cake ready and you can take your medicine after.”

Nicholas nodded and promptly did as instructed.

I went ahead and got everything ready for Nicholas’ birthday celebration, placing the cake on the coffee table and topping it with candles.

After a while, Nicholas passed his phone to me, “Here, Grandma wants to talk to you.”

“Hi, Mrs. Scott,” I said cheerily. “I’m proud to say that the ravioli has been safely delivered and consumed by Nicholas.”

Monica burst out laughing on the other end of the phone before replying, “Good! Nothing makes me happier than that. Lili, spend more time with him tonight, will you? When the two of you are free, do visit me together.”

“No problem. Rest early, Mrs. Scott. Bye!”

As I handed the phone back to Nicholas, I remarked, “Your grandmother really misses you a lot.”

“I know. Once I’ve finished filming, I’ll take a break and spend time with Grandma.”

I nodded in approval before getting him to turn off the lights for the celebration.

Soon, we were both gazing at the lit candles in the dark room.

“Time to blow out the candles,” I said after serenading Nicholas with the mandatory birthday song. “Oh, don’t forget to make your wish!”

Nicholas closed his eyes for almost three seconds before blowing the candles out and turning the lights back on.

“Okay, birthday boy, go ahead and cut the cake.”

With that, Nicholas deftly cut his cake and handed me a slice. “Liliana, thank you so much for celebrating my birthday with me.”

I waved a dismissive hand at him and chortled. “You’re welcome. Your grandmother entrusted me with this task so I’m determined not to fail her. Besides, we’re friends.”

After taking a glance around the living room, I added, “By the way, why are you on your own? Where’s Jake? Shouldn’t he be helping to take care of you?”

“Well, Jake-

Before Nicholas could finish his sentence, his phone rang.

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 154 Sad Memories

My eyes immediately lit up when I saw that the caller was none other than Jake. Wow! Speak of the devil!

Nicholas grabbed his phone and walked away to answer it, leaving me to savor the cake on my own.

Just then, my phone also started ringing with WhatsApp notifications.

To my surprise, it was Dominic checking on me with a text: Where are you?

It was a simple question, yet I was completely stumped.

Should I say I’m home? But what if Dominic happens to be home, too?

Even though Dominic did say he would not be home that night, there was always the nagging feeling that he might have other tricks up his sleeves.

After what seemed like an eternity, I finally replied: I’m out shopping; I’ll go to the supermarket later. Are you home?

Dominic wasted no time with his reply: Head straight home once you're done and don't wander around. Just because I'm not with you doesn't mean you can do whatever you like.

The more I read Dominic's text, the more I rolled my eyes. Why does he always tell me not to wander around? Do I seriously worry him that much?

Annoyed, I texted back a curt response: Okay, fine.

Dominic did not reply after, but at least with his texts, I could now confirm that he wasn't home.

That said, I could not deny how weird it was that Dominic had chosen to text me via WhatsApp instead of calling me like he usually did. Am I overthinking it? Or is there something amiss?

Nicholas had also ended his call and returned to the living room. "Well? What did your dear Jake say to you?" I smirked.

"What else but the same old things?" Nicholas said with a sigh. "Jake's becoming such a nag, and that's why I didn't tell him that I was sick. If I did, it'd only send him into a complete state of panic."

"Haha, that's because Jake cares about you! All right, enough of that. Have your cake first, and I'll give you your medicine in a while."

"Okay."

Before long, Nicholas and I had once again settled into a comfortable conversation as we ate our cake.

"Nicholas, do Jake and Ms. Williams not know about your birthday tradition? There's no way they wouldn't celebrate it with you if they knew about it."

"They don't know. Everybody knows my birthday, but only my family celebrates it early with me."

I nodded understandingly. After all, some habits were personal and need not be disclosed to everyone.

"What about your parents? Since Mrs. Scott lives alone, does that mean your parents live somewhere else?"

I uttered the question out of genuine curiosity, but unfortunately, it didn't sit right with Nicholas.

My heart skipped a beat when I saw how much his gaze had darkened. I knew then that I had said something wrong.

“I’m so, so sorry! I shouldn’t have asked that. Just pretend you haven’t heard anything!”

Argh, me and my big mouth! Why did I have to bring up his parents? I must have upset him real bad.

Pin drop silence befell the room as Nicholas sat with his lips tightly pursed.

Since we had finished the cake and it was also getting late, I decided it’d be better to make a quick exit.

Moreover, I had lied to Dominic that I was out shopping, so I still had to pick up some groceries to cover my tracks.

“Nicholas, I still have something on, so I’ll be taking my leave now. Remember to have your medicine later.”

“I’ll give you a lift,” he finally replied.

“No, that’s too troublesome. I can easily hail a cab. Besides, have you forgotten that you aren’t feeling well?”

Even if he weren’t sick, I still wouldn’t want to trouble him to send me home.

“Fine, if you don’t want me to send you home, you can stay here tonight. I’ll get Jake to drive you back in the morning.”

He has me cornered! No matter what, there’s just no way I could stay here overnight!

Left with no other choice, I eventually agreed to let Nicholas send me down the hill.

Nicholas was silent throughout the journey, which made me even more sure that I had upset him with the question about his parents.

It was clear that he didn’t have fond memories of them.

We soon arrived at the supermarket in the city center. I gingerly stepped out of the car.

“Nicholas, I didn’t mean to bring up your... I’m sorry. Nevertheless, it’s your birthday today, so I hope you’ll cheer up a bit more.”

Nicholas held my gaze and broke into a smile. “Okay. And again, thank you so much for today.”

I heaved a sigh of relief as I watched his car drive off into the night. After everything that had happened, I'd have to watch my mouth even more from now on.

After getting my groceries from the supermarket, I made my way home.

That night, I had just come out of the shower when Shannon finally called. It was a weight off my mind after hearing that she was fine and that she didn't blame me at all for the highly unorthodox solution.

She was, however, incensed at what Quinn had done and proceeded to tell me everything from the night before.

According to Shannon, she had asked a few fellow editors out for dinner when she ran into Quinn with another woman.

With her suspicions about him confirmed, Shannon was understandably furious, so she confronted Quinn.

Perhaps knowing his game was up, Quinn's attitude changed for the worse as he started cursing and swearing at Shannon.

After that, Shannon was forcibly taken away by him. It then took her a great deal of effort before she could even text me.

The more Shannon recounted her experience to me, the angrier she became, and I had to try my best to calm her down. Thankfully, Shannon was no innocent or naive little girl, while Dominic and I arrived in the nick of time before Quinn could do anything else to her.

"I'm happy that Quinn is finally out of the picture. But now, I worry about you and Benjamin," I muttered.

"Don't worry, he and I have come to an understanding. We'll take it as a consensual one-night stand and never speak of it again in the future."

Once again, I felt a wave of guilt crash over me as I listened to her. After all, none of these would've happened if it weren't for Dominic and me.

"Shannon, are you sure you're okay? I never wanted any of this to happen, but Dominic said there were no other solutions. Will you blame me for it?"

Shannon laughed before replying, "It's okay. It's not like I'm a virgin. In fact, I'm grateful that you got Benjamin for me. He's not bad. I'll just treat last night as a night of indulgence."

Even though Shannon always seemed so liberal and carefree, I knew that, deep down, she wasn't a promiscuous person.

She might have had several boyfriends in and out of her life, but she knew better than to cross any boundaries. I really hope she could come to terms with what happened the night before.

I was too exhausted to do any work after my conversation with Shannon, so I got into bed instead.

The next day, I stayed home to work on my sketches, but even as night came around, Dominic was nowhere to be seen.

He never came home in the next three days, either, much to my chagrin.

However, it didn't take long for me to get over Dominic because my father called to inform me that Grandpa had been hospitalized.

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Love the Second Time Around Chapter 155 Pure Luck

After I received Dad's call, I hurried back to Dellmoor. On the way there, I called Dominic. However, as no one picked up, I stopped calling.

When I reached Dellmoor, I rushed straight to Dellmoor Hospital instantly, not daring to waste even a single second.

Tears streamed down my cheeks the moment I saw Grandpa lying on the bed with his eyes closed. Blood had seeped through the bandage that was wrapped around his head.

Sobbing, I asked Dad what happened. It's only been a few days after Grandpa's birthday. How did he get injured?

My dad replied that a burglar had snuck into the house at night, waking Grandpa up. When he tried to catch the burglar red-handed, he accidentally fell.

Luckily, not only was Grandpa was awakened but Sam, our neighbor, also woke up due to the noise.

After realizing that Grandpa had fainted, Sam immediately sent him to the clinic in the village for emergency treatment. Then, he contacted Dad, who sent Grandpa to Dellmoor Hospital.

If Sam had not done that, the consequences would have been dire.

Grandpa was fine now. However, as he was already quite old, he still had not woken up.

I was fuming with rage. What's wrong with those burglars? Why did they choose to rob our house? There's nothing valuable inside!

"Dad, did you manage to catch the burglar? Have you called the police? If it's the burglar who injured Grandpa, we can sue him for causing harm. How despicable of him!"

Dad shook his head. "We called the police, but they said that it'll be challenging catching the burglar. Let's ask your grandfather after he wakes up. What matters now is that he's safe and sound."

After thinking about it, I agreed. The most important thing was for Grandpa to be all right.

"Lili, where's Dom? Didn't he come back with you?" Only then did Dad remember to ask about Dominic.

I explained, "I called him, but he didn't pick up. He's been busy recently. By the way, why isn't Mom here?"

"I told her to go home and prepare some chicken noodle soup for your grandfather after he wakes up. The food served by the hospital tastes horrible."

I nodded.

Grandpa woke up once in the afternoon but soon fell asleep again. When we summoned a doctor over, he said that Grandpa was fine.

However, the doctors still needed to observe him for a few days. After ensuring that he did not have a concussion and that his vitals were stable, he would be discharged. He only had to return periodically to redress his wound.

Later on, my aunts and uncles arrived as well.

Dad discussed with them for a while and decided that after Grandpa was discharged, he would stay with us at Dellmoor so that Dad, Mom, and I could take care of him together.

The rest agreed and even offered to pay a sum of money each month. Although Grandpa would stay at my parents' place, everyone pitched in to take care of him.

Initially, Dad refused. However, the relatives said that they were too busy with work to take care of Grandpa.

Since Dad and Mom were teachers and had more time on their hands, they could take better care of Grandpa. The rest could not do that personally, so they felt obligated to fork out some money as a gesture of their goodwill.

Only then did Dad finally agree, though he insisted that the contribution should not be too much. After all, he and Mom could afford to take care of Grandpa.

I was touched listening to their conversation. Although everyone in the family had their own flaws, it was still very heartwarming to witness their willingness to help.

As Grandpa still had not woken up, the rest left after a short stay. They had driven over in a hurry and needed to rush back at night as they had to work the next day.

At night, Mom arrived with the chicken noodle soup she had made for Grandpa. Coincidentally, he woke up at that moment.

I was relieved that he was awake and conscious.

Yet, when I remembered how he had to catch a burglar himself despite his old age, my heart ached. I could not help but remind him, "Grandpa, you mustn't do this anymore. You scared us so much!"

Although Grandpa was injured, he still protested loudly, "Why not? Burglars are targeting our house! If I don't catch him, do I just watch him steal our belongings?"

Unable to hold herself back, Mom interrupted, "Just watch, then. Your health is the most important. Furthermore, there's nothing valuable at home. Dad, you're not young anymore, okay?"

Grandpa's expression turned grim as he said coldly, "Nonsense! Even a broken bowl is our belonging. How can someone else steal it? This burglar is lucky enough to escape. If I have gotten my hands on him, I would have broken his leg! How dare he steal from our house?"

When I heard that, I quickly coaxed him. "Don't do that, Grandpa. You shouldn't do something like this anymore. Don't you know how worried I was when Dad told me that you've been admitted to the hospital? I want you to live till a hundred years old and watch me get married and have kids!"

Mom chimed in, "Yeah! You've always doted on Lili, so you've got to listen to her. Don't you want to stay healthy and play with your great-grandchildren?"

Only then did Grandpa calm down. He patted my hand and said, "Fine, I'll listen to you. Don't worry, I'll definitely live long enough to watch you get married and have kids."

Our persuasion proved effective. When Dad told Grandpa that he would stay with us after getting discharged, Grandpa hesitated for a while. In the end, he agreed. He no longer refused so adamantly as before.

When we were accompanying Grandpa in the hospital and chatting with him, Dominic called.

After explaining the situation to him, I told him that he did not need to trouble himself and rush over if he was busy with work.

That was my parents' intention, too. After all, Grandpa was fine now.

Dominic replied that he would visit tomorrow after he had settled everything.

Dad initially wanted to stay overnight in the hospital to keep Grandpa company. However, since they were tired, I told them to go home and offered to stay behind instead.

When Dominic said that he would visit tomorrow, I assumed that he would come in the afternoon or at night. Surprisingly, it was barely seven in the morning when he called me and asked me where I was.

I was shocked when I saw him appear at the hospital with breakfast in his hands.

"Why did you come here so early? Didn't you say that you had to finish your work first?"

He passed the breakfast to me. "Yeah, I came after finishing everything."

Stunned, I stared at him without saying anything. What is he talking about? Did he burn the midnight oil to finish his work?

"I know I'm handsome, but you don't have to stare at me like that, do you?"

I rolled my eyes in disgust when I heard that. I've never seen anyone as narcissistic as he is!

However, I was still a bit suspicious. Did he work overnight just to rush here in time?

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 156

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 156 Not Allowed To Leave Him

The things Dominic had done for me and my family were starting to confuse me. I came to wonder if his gestures were genuine.

Just because Grandpa had been admitted to the hospital, he worked overnight and rushed over so early the next day.

If he was merely pretending, his act was simply too realistic.

Only real couples or married people would do this.

I wanted to ask him about it. It was also a reminder for both of us to keep to our boundaries without overstepping them.

Dominic, if this is just an act, stop being so nice to me.

I thought about it silently for a while before dragging him out to the corridor outside. After all, I could not possibly ask him in front of Grandpa.

However, as it was too weird to go straight to the point, I tried to ask in an indirect manner. "Did you not sleep last night? The circles under your eyes are so dark!"

Dominic scoffed, "Why do you ask? Are you concerned about me?"

I nodded honestly. "Yeah, I am. Your health isn't that great, either. Look, your arm is still bandaged. How did you come here? Did Calvin send you?"

Dominic shot me a weird look before saying, "I hailed a cab here because Calvin's busy, too. Take off my tie for me."

When I raised my hand and took off his tie, the nurses passing by tried to hide their giggles.

We must seem really intimate to everyone else.

I thought about it silently and froze halfway. However, I did not dare to raise my head and look at him.

"Dominic, I'd like to ask you a question. Can you answer me honestly?"

He replied impatiently, "Are you trying to put together an encyclopedia? Why do you have so many questions? Does taking off my tie give you some huge revelation about the universe?"

Hmph! The mood was there but he has just ruined it with his words.

"Can't you just have a normal conversation with me? I don't keep asking questions every day. Just tell me if you'll answer truthfully or not!"

He lifted my chin and smirked teasingly. "Your temper's getting hot recently, huh?"

I slapped his hand away in frustration. "Dominic!"

He laughed; he was not furious at all. "Fine, just for today. Ask ahead!"

I had already thought of my question. However, now that he suddenly agreed, I found myself unable to ask him.

Noticing my silence, Dominic urged, "Ask now. I'm giving you a chance. If you don't ask, you won't find another chance to do so."

I tightened my grip on his tie. Despite the conflicted feeling within me, I decided to ask.

"Dominic."

When he did not reply, I glanced at him. "Are we... Are we still pretending?"

His eyes glinted momentarily.

Staring at me intently, he asked solemnly, "What do you think? If it's not an act, what is it?"

Speechless, I pursed my lips. If it's not an act, I hope that it's true.

But could it ever be true?

"Tell me, Liana. What do you think it is?"

I shook my head silently. A long time passed before I replied, "Dominic, if you still want to be together with Camille and marry her, stop doing this to me. Why don't we end this strange relationship? Since it has to end when you're married, let's end it early. It'd be better for both of us."

I could not understand the unfathomable and brooding look in Dominic's eyes. Why is he taking such a long time to reply either yes or no?

"Dominic!" I could not help but call out to him again.

He suddenly laughed. However, it did not seem cheerful at all. When he spoke, his tone was extremely cold.

"We agreed that you have to stay by my side as long as I'm not married. You said that yourself! How can you forget it so quickly?"

I protested anxiously. "I didn't forget. But you are getting married soon, aren't you? It's already December and we..."

"It's none of your business when I get married. As long as I'm not married, you're not allowed to leave me!"

When I heard his furious voice, I was at a loss for words.

"Lili, Dom, why are you here so early? Have you had breakfast? I brought some over. Let's eat together!"

Just when Dominic and I were at a stalemate and unable to say anything to each other, Mom arrived.

I pursed my lips and tried my best to regain my composure. Turning around, I looked at her and asked, "Mom, why didn't you sleep for a longer while? Where's Dad?"

"Your Dad went to school to settle some work. He'll come later. Since I left the house with him, I brought breakfast for you. Dom, why are you here so early? Lili said that you've been busy with work recently. And your arm hasn't healed yet! I hope you won't fall sick later!"

Dominic had already gone back to his normal self. Smiling gently at Mom, he answered, "I was busy but I'm almost done with work now. When Lili said that her grandfather is in the hospital, I was worried so I rushed over."

Looking at how casually Dominic was chatting with Mom, I sighed silently.

He doesn't know how much of an agony it is for me to stay by his side like this every day.

Dominic was still chatting with Mom when he mentioned that he was going to get something with me.

"Helen, I brought some nutritional stuff for Grandpa. I'll head downstairs with Lili to bring it up. You should go in first and keep him company."

Although Mom insisted that he did not have to do that, she was beaming happily. She must be silent heaping praises on Dominic now.

Holding my hand, Dominic turned around and walked toward the elevator. The moment we entered, he let go of me.

I glanced at him, wanting to say something. However, I decided against it.

The elevator stopped at the underground car park level. Ignoring me, Dominic strode out while I followed him gloomily.

I did not understand why he insisted on keeping me with him. If he did not love me and did not want to be together with me, I would only be an eyesore to him.

What's the point of doing something that makes everyone unhappy?

I walked forward with my head lowered. As I did not notice him stopping, my head bumped into his back.

I was about to chide him when I raised my head. My eyes abruptly met his dark, soulful eyes.

Why is he looking at me so scarily?

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 157

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 157 Pulled Some Strings

I took a step back and asked with a trembling voice, "Why are you looking at me like that?"

He bent forward and pinched my chin with his left hand. Narrowing his eyes, he said coldly, "Looks like you need to be taught a lesson, Liliana."

"What are you talking about? I'm telling the truth, but you refused to listen. We... Hey! Are you crazy, Dominic?"

Catching me off guard, he suddenly pulled on my collar and bit my shoulder.

"Ouch! Dominic, it hurts! Let go of me!"

I no longer wanted to wear knitted sweaters like this anymore. It just made things simpler for Dominic.

Finally, he released me. My right shoulder was in so much pain that it felt numb.

Tears welled up in my eyes. "You jerk, Dominic! Are you a dog? Why did you bite me for no reason? You even bit me so forcefully! You're crazy!"

Dominic laughed wildly. "I'm giving you a lesson. Try saying that you want to leave me one more time."

I pursed my lips and remained silent. Instead, I cursed him madly in my mind.

He raised his hands and wiped the tears away from my face in a rather rough manner. "You look so ugly like this. Let's go."

I wanted to pounce onto him and bite him back. He's the one who made me cry! How dare he call me ugly? What a jerk!

"Why aren't you leaving? Do you want me to bite you again?"

When I heard that, I did not dare to remain in my daze and quickly followed him.

Dominic walked in front and led us out of the car park.

Only then did I realize something: Dominic mentioned that he had taken a cab here. So he was lying when he said he wanted to take something from the car. He didn't even buy anything!

He just wanted to trick me into coming here and bullying me.

We went to a shopping mall and bought a lot of things before returning to the hospital.

When we arrived at Grandpa's ward, Mom spotted the shopping bags in our hands and frowned.

"Dom, didn't you say that you left to get something? You just bought them, right? You even left for such a long time."

I remained silent. Yeah, he just bought it. I hope that he gets exposed, that liar!

On the other hand, Dominic remained calm and replied guiltily, "I rushed here early in the morning, so I didn't have time to prepare anything. Still, I can't possibly visit Grandpa without bringing anything, right? I had no choice but to drag Lian with me to buy something. Please don't be angry, Helen."

I almost choked on my water. This jerk! Why is he so good with words? He can make anything sound true.

Mom was beaming brightly again, showing no hints of annoyance.

"You're too polite, Dom. You aren't an outsider, so there's no need for you to buy so many things. I'll let this pass, but you're not allowed to buy anything in the future, okay?"

Her words did not sit well with me. Remembering how he bit me earlier, I felt nothing but anger.

“Mom! How is he not an outsider? Stop trying to get all chummy with him. Who knows if he thinks the way you do?”

Mom spun around and glared at me; she was upset. “What nonsense are you talking about, Lili? He came all the way here to visit your grandfather and even bought so many gifts. Why are you picking on him?”

I pouted. Before I could rebuke her, Dominic chimed in, “Helen, don’t scold Lian. I’ve been too busy to accompany her, so she’s not very happy with me. I’ll coax her later.”

Coax me? Are you going to bite me again?

I grunted in dismay, not wanting to say anything else.

Mom instructed me, “Lili, follow me to fill up some water. Dom, stay with her grandfather for a while.”

I followed Mom out unwillingly, knowing that she was definitely planning to chide me. Before I could refuse, she had dragged me out.

While we walked along the corridor, Mom stared at me for a long time before saying, “Did you argue with Dom? When I bumped into both of you this morning, things looked weird between you two.”

My heart skipped a beat when I heard that. Did Mom overhear something?

“We weren’t arguing. It’s just some banter! Stop making wild guesses, Mom.”

Mom glared at me in annoyance. “I’m not guessing. I just want to remind you that although it’s normal for couples to argue, you mustn’t let it harm your relationship. What would Dom would think after hearing what you said just now?”

I was speechless. So, at the end of the day, she’s still trying to scold me.

“Mom, what if Dom and I break up one day? What will you and Dad do?”

Mom sighed. “What else can we do? Although we hope that both of you can be together, this is your relationship. What’s important is that you’ve thought it through and that you don’t regret your decision.”

I sighed, too, and gave no reply.

After filling up the bottle with water, I returned to the ward with Mom to see Grandpa chatting with Dominic.

Although Grandpa was not as affectionate toward Dominic as Mom, it seemed like their relationship had improved.

What's up with Dominic? How did he manage to impress everyone around me?

At noon, Dad came to the hospital and we had a meal outside. While my parents returned to the hospital, Dominic and I went to the police station.

The police had called to inform us that the burglar had been caught.

Although my parents did not plan to visit the police station, I wanted to go there and give that burglar a harsh scolding.

Yesterday, Dad was even speculating whether the police could capture the burglar. Since they managed to do so today, it proved that they were quite efficient.

However, I was confused. Why is the burglar detained in a police station in Dellmoor?

When I saw the burglar at the police station, I was surprised. Isn't he that man who tried to frame us when we were in the countryside?

When the man spotted me and Dominic, he started hurling insults at us. The policeman beside him had to shut him up.

Only then did I realize that the man had probably targeted our house on purpose to take revenge.

However, not only did he fail to seek revenge, but he also shot himself in the foot.

After leaving the police station, Dominic made a call. It was then that I realized he had pulled some strings and ordered an investigation on the man. If not for Dominic, the culprit might have gone scot-free.

Furthermore, Dominic had already instructed his men to check the man's background before. It was through tracking him that they managed to find the culprit.

Dominic sent the man to Dellmoor because he wanted him to be locked up for a period of time and suffer a harsher punishment.

I was thankful for Dominic's help, but a deep sense of helplessness surfaced within me simultaneously.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 158

If this continued, I was afraid that I could not leave him as nonchalantly as I wanted to.

However, Dominic had no self-awareness. Smirking at me, he gloated, "I helped you this time. How do you plan to repay my favor?"

I glanced at him and said in annoyance, "Um... Thank you?"

He raised his eyebrows, indicating that he was still not satisfied. "How can you dismiss me so easily like this? You're so socially awkward!"

Whatever. Not everyone can be as shameless as he, after all.

While waiting for the car by the road, I turned around and said to him, "You should go home in the afternoon. Since Grandpa's fine now, you wouldn't be able to do anything even if you stay here."

He replied matter-of-factly, "Then you should go back with me."

I was annoyed by what he said. It felt like he was monitoring me constantly, afraid that I would escape.

"Why should I go back? I'm staying here to take care of Grandpa. I'll go back after he's discharged."

I thought that he was agreeing when he nodded. However, he continued, "Let's stay together, then. Anyway, you have no say whether I choose to leave or stay."

I was rendered speechless by him.

Three days later, Grandpa was discharged from the hospital and went to stay with my parents.

Meanwhile, Dominic and I stayed at home for a night before returning to Lightspring the next day.

While Dominic headed to the office directly, I went home.

Immediately afterward, I received a call from Shannon saying that Galaxy Corporation would like to meet me the day after tomorrow to discuss the comic *Lazing Around With You*. The filming was about to start soon, so they wanted to go over some questions with me.

To be honest, I had completely forgotten about it.

After agreeing on a time to meet with representatives from Galaxy Corporation, we ended the call.

When Dominic returned at night, I hesitated for a while before telling him about it.

After all, it was his comic. Now that the filming was about to begin, I asked him if he wanted to tag along with me.

Dominic chuckled for a while and teased me. "Since it's already under your name, why should I still go?"

I was at a loss for words. Looks like I have to live with this for the rest of my life.

"Forget it, then. I just thought I'd ask."

The truth was that I kept offering to give the comic back to him. He refused my offer, yet he was also the one making such snide remarks now.

On the day of the meeting, Shannon and I had lunch together and wandered around before arriving at Galaxy Corporation at two in the afternoon.

Shannon was still in a good mood, which implied that she was unaffected by what happened previously.

When we arrived at Galaxy Corporation, we told the receptionist of our visit and were subsequently brought to a waiting room. After a while, someone entered.

Upon seeing that it was James, Shannon and I were shocked.

The boss usually did not have to show up personally to discuss matters like this.

Like before, James flashed us a bright grin and greeted us, "Hello! It's been a long time since I've met you beautiful ladies. How have you been?"

My lips twitched. He has never spoken normally every time we met!

Tilting her head, Shannon asked with a smile, "Mr. Dalton, we're here to discuss some matters with Galaxy Corporation. Are you planning to talk to us personally?"

James smiled and said flippantly, "It's my honor to talk to you beautiful ladies. How can I give up such a valuable opportunity?"

I was speechless. Can he just talk nicely?

Ahem! I cleared my throat and said seriously, "Let's start discussing, then. What questions do you have about the shoot?"

Let's get this over and done with quickly.

However, James was not eager to start discussing. Instead, he kept chatting about irrelevant things with me and Shannon.

Neither of us knew what he was trying to do.

Just as I could not stand it anymore, the door was flung open and Dominic strode in.

I was stunned. Why is he here? Didn't he say that he's not going to join us?

When James saw Dominic, he clapped his hands and announced, "Since everyone's here, let's go to the meeting room."

So he's just waiting for Dominic.

After excusing myself from Shannon, I tugged on Dominic's arm and asked, "Why are you here?"

He lowered his head and swept his gaze across me. "Because I want to."

What's wrong with his man? How can he change his mind so quickly?

While Dominic and James walked in front, Shannon and I followed at the back.

Shannon whispered suspiciously, "Why is Dominic here? He's got nothing to do with your comic being filmed, does he?"

I shook my head gloomily. "I don't know what he's up to. He's probably crazy. Let's ignore him!"

We sat down upon arriving at the meeting room. A secretary walked in with a stack of papers and gave each of us a copy.

James said that it was the edited script for the comic and told me to review it carefully. If there was anything that I found odd, I could raise it and they would edit it again.

I flipped through the script. Previously, I had already scanned through Dominic's comic.

Yet, after realizing I had taken the wrong draft and that Dominic was back with Camille again, I stopped reading it.

Even if I read the script, I probably would not have any opinion about it.

As I could not possibly say that in front of them, I nodded at James to signal that I would review it carefully.

I thought that the meeting was over by now, but James asked me another question which I had no idea how to answer.

“Lilina, I’ve already read your comic. Although it’s just about small events in everyday life, it’s very sweet. What were your feelings when you drew this comic? Were you in a relationship?”

Stunned, I glanced at Dominic subconsciously.

I did not know what he was thinking about. With his head lowered, he stared at the script on the table and gave no response.

He’s the one who drew the comic. How could I possibly know what he was thinking about back then?

As James was waiting for my answer, I had no choice but to steel myself and say, “Well, it’s been ages since I drew it. I was still a student back then and merely doodled when I was bored. This has nothing to do with the show, does it?”

“Of course it’s relevant! We can only grasp the essence of the comic after understanding your feelings. That way, the show will be much more touching to the audience.”

I was stunned. Why is he making it so profound? It’s just a comic!

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 159

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 159 She Is Not Going

After pondering for a while, I decided to buy some time by replying to James, “Can you give me a little more time on this? I will try to think it through and update you later.”

Deep down, I knew I had to butter Dominic up at night so he would be willing to share with me what was playing on his mind at that time.

James smiled and nodded approvingly but told me not to take too long.

After that, he assigned his secretary to pass me a photo album, telling me that I had the chance to shortlist the candidates for the male and female lead. If my shortlisted candidates turned out to be ideal ones during the audition, they would be able to get the roles fixed.

I was over the moon the moment I knew that I had the right to do so. It never crossed my mind that I would be given the opportunity for the shortlisting. The thought spurred my excitement in an instant.

Shannon was as excited as I was. Our minds were preoccupied with the shortlisting of the candidates for the male lead. We could not wait to flip through the photo album.

My goodness! This photo album is indeed a collection of pictures of trending celebrities. I can't believe that I get to choose from the various types of good-looking male actors, ranging from energetic young ones, macho ones, and alluring ones. Oh, my god! All of them are simply irresistible for me!

My eyes lit up as I asked James excitedly, "James, if those whom I shortlist attend the audition later, can I come to have a look? Do I have the right to vote for them?"

James nodded and replied, "Of course. We think highly of your selection. After all, this is your artwork. Thus, we believe you are the best person who can shortlist the ideal candidates for the male and female lead."

"All right. I will go through all one by one and choose properly," I responded delightedly. Shannon and I prepared to take our leave after that.

She was interested in shortlisting the candidates together with me. Thus, we planned to find a place to sit down and talk it through.

Right then, James called out to us abruptly. It seemed he had something to tell us.

"Since we have talked about the work matter, let's talk about something more relaxing. Christmas Eve is just around the corner. Let's meet up for a celebration," he suggested eagerly.

Christmas Eve? Oh yeah, it's already nineteenth today. So Christmas will be next week!

I was not keen on celebrating festivals all this while, and I did not really enjoy the boisterous festive atmosphere. However, Shannon seemed to be interested. My gut instinct told me that Dominic did not really enjoy celebrating festivals as well. He did not look like one who would celebrate Christmas.

"Dom, what do you think? Do you have any other plans? If possible, ask both Benjamin and Mitch to join us then. It has been quite a while since we last had a gathering. How about we grab the chance for a short vacation overseas?" James asked Dominic excitedly.

Right that instant, I felt like slapping myself. How can I forget that he had spent five years overseas before this? He must have experienced memorable Christmas celebrations there throughout those years. Did he celebrate it annually with Camille?

In James' and the others' eyes, he and Camille were undoubtedly a pair of lovebirds. If I tagged along with them this year, I might end up raining on their parade. Apart from that, I foresaw that I would be feeling down in the dumps along the trip.

No way! I won't be able to stand their public display of affection!

I forced a smile and uttered casually, "You guys go ahead with your plan. I'm not joining, as I'm going back to accompany my grandpa."

Shannon turned to look at me in disappointment. "Ah! Aren't you joining us? Come on, let's go together. If you are not going, I will be the only lady in the group. How can you have the heart to leave me watching paint dry with them?"

James teased me by chiming in deliberately, "Liliana, if you are not joining us, I will invite a group of gorgeous ladies in bikinis then. Are you sure you won't mind at all?"

I shot him a penetrating glance and scoffed inwardly. Hmph! Just invite as many beauties as you like. That's none of my business! After all, there'll be someone who keeps Dominic company even if you don't invite those gorgeous women!

Thus, I made up my mind and replied firmly, "It's up to you. I'm not going with you. Shannon, you can still have fun by joining them."

I was suddenly not in the mood to go for a meal with Shannon and go through photos of the eye candies.

"Shannon, I have some urgent matters to be resolved. Let's meet another day to shortlist the candidates. You guys go ahead discussing your Christmas trip. I'm leaving now." I waved at Shannon and walked away.

"Liliana, what's the matter with you? Liliana, wait a minute!" Shannon yelled out hastily, trying to stop me.

Turning a deaf ear to her, I quickened my pace and strode out of the meeting room with piles of documents in my hand. Later, I hailed a cab home right after stepping out of Galaxy Corporation.

Not long after I reached home, Dominic was home as well. Somehow, I did not feel like talking to him. Nor did I feel like asking him about his feelings when he drew the comic.

When I was about to stand up from the couch and make my way to the bedroom, Dominic moved swiftly and pinned me on it.

With a grim look, he commanded, "Join us for our Christmas trip. I don't want to hear you say no!"

I turned my head away and refused to look at him. "I'm not going!"

Grasping my chin, he forced me to look into his eyes and enunciated coldly, "You have no right to say no to me!"

I flipped out instantaneously and gritted my teeth. "Dominic Hartnell, don't forget that we are supposed to keep mum about our relationship. If so, why are you insisting that I must join the Christmas trip? Isn't it good enough since Camille is accompanying you? Besides, I have emphasized numerous times about my loathing toward her, haven't I? I don't want to get my mood spoiled by running into her. Do you get me?"

"So you don't feel like going because of her?" Dominic was stunned before he blurted out the words.

My goodness! Why is he still asking such a simple question?

"Yes, it's because of her! I know well about my role and limitations. I'm not interested in the public display of affection between you and her. Don't make a fool out of me!" I lashed out at him.

Surprisingly, Dominic did not utter any words. I doubted if he was infuriated by my words. Pfft! Whatever, I have my temper as well. Why should I need to torture myself by bottling up my feelings?

I was feeling uncomfortable as he was pinning me hard on the couch. Mustering up my strength, I tried to shove him away. "Let go of me. It's time for me to go through my script."

"Allocate time tomorrow to get your passport done," he said coldly.

I felt my temples start to throb. I have explained so much to him. Why can't he get what I mean?

"Dominic Hartnell, don't you get me? I said I'm not going!" I yelled at him.

He glared at me and snapped coldly, "Camille won't be joining. It's just us and the rest. Stop giving me those absurd excuses again."

Blinking my eyes, I asked him hesitantly, "Are you sure she is not going?"

Nonetheless, he rose with a sullen look and stomped into the bedroom without sparing me a glance.

Seated motionless on the couch for quite a while, I could hardly believe what I had just heard. Did I get him wrong? Christmas is one of the important festivals for couples to spend time together; yet, he said that Camille is not going. Ah! He even reminded me to

get my passport done tomorrow. So he is really planning to celebrate Christmas with me overseas?

All of a sudden, I brightened up at the thought.

By the time Dominic stepped out of the bedroom again, he had already changed into casual wear. "Stop daydreaming! Get the dinner ready now!"

His sudden bellow of anger woke me up from my contemplation. I sprang up from the couch and responded instantly, "Ah! Okay!"

Since my mood got better, I wanted to ask him further about how he drew the comic. As I needed a favor from him, I decided to exercise restraint and express my sincerity.

Without hesitation, I poured a glass of warm milk and made my way toward the study.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 160

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 160 Try To Please Him

After knocking lightly on the door, I entered right away and placed the glass on his desk. "Take this glass of milk so you will have a good sleep later."

Dominic lifted the glass and scrutinized it for quite a while before he looked at me and smirked. "Am I seeing things? Has the sun risen from the west instead? Or perhaps you have doped the milk?"

I rolled my eyes in an instant. Hmph! He certainly has a wild imagination! Apparently, he looks too highly of me. I won't have the audacity to do anything against the law!

Refraining my mind from wandering, I put on a fawning smile and replied, "Of course not. As a good citizen, I won't do anything against the law. I'm just concerned about you. My mom has told me to take good care of you. As you have been occupied with work lately, I'm worried you can't sleep well at night, so I got you a glass of warm milk. Just drink it."

Hearing that, Dominic scanned me from head to toe subtly and scoffed, "Ah! Since when have you taken your mom's words seriously? I bet you must be having some ploys in your mind."

What? Having some ploys? I'm just thinking of asking him a few questions.

Before I could open my mouth to refute, he sneered at me and continued, "Anyway, you are overconfident. Do you think you can bribe me with just a glass of milk?"

He then whined deliberately, “Ugh! I’m stressed and exhausted. There seem to be endless meetings for me to attend. I’ve got a stiff neck because of that!”

It struck me right away that he was hinting something at me. Even though he was taking advantage of me, I talked myself into tolerating him.

I leaned closer to him and started massaging his shoulders. “Let me help you get rid of the soreness of your neck. I used to give my dad massages as well.”

I was rather confident with my massaging skills. At the sight of the look on his face, I was convinced that he was satisfied with my skills as well.

“Ah! Mr. Hartnell, I—” I was about to bring up the topic of his comic, but he cut me off by saying, “I’m a bit hungry and feel like eating fruits.”

Damn it! I’m sure he is doing this on purpose. Is his stomach a bottomless pit? It’s barely two hours after dinner, but he’s already hungry, huh?

Even so, I only dared to grumble inwardly. I’d better not go against his will. If not, he will surely give me a hard time again!

“Wait for a while. I go and cut some fruits now.” I turned and walked out of the study at once.

I took out all kinds of fruits available at home and cut them into slices. After arranging the fruit slices nicely on the plate, I even placed a small fork above the fruits.

Pfft! I’m serving him perfectly well with this fruit platter. Let’s see what else he can say then!

Scoffing inwardly, I carried the fruit platter to the study to serve him. “There are apples, pears, bananas, and dragon fruits here. Enjoy yourself.”

Dominic’s eyes glued to the screen of his laptop. He replied nonchalantly, “Just put it aside. I’m busy now and have no time to eat.”

I rolled my eyes again at the sight of the drama series playing on the laptop. Busy? So this is what keeps him occupied at the moment! Am I seeing things? I never know that he loves to watch this kind of drama series!

Gritting my teeth, I tried my best to hold myself back. I need to calm down. I mustn’t unleash my wrath on him!

I pulled a chair and sat next to him. Recalling that he liked dragon fruits, I picked up a piece with the small fork and brought it near his mouth. “Try this. I have just tried. It’s sweet.”

He turned to look at me with a smirk and swallowed the piece of fruit. I heaved a sigh of relief at once, glad that he was willing to eat it.

While he shifted his gaze back to the drama series, I grabbed the opportunity to feed him a few more pieces.

Coincidentally, I had been watching the drama series as well. When I was seated next to him to serve him the fruits, I tended to fix my eyes on the screen unknowingly.

As time elapsed, the current episode ended, and the ending music sounded. Only then did I remember my mission.

During the advertisement slot, I continued to serve him a piece of banana and asked warily, "Dominic, what inspired you to draw the comic I Only Want to Be With You?"

Dominic was majoring in finance. Undeniably, he drew comics because of me.

At that time, my major was Ustranasion, which was not the slightest bit related to comics. Even so, I loved to read various types of comics since young. Subsequently, it piqued my interest to draw comics myself.

Nevertheless, it was a different case for Dominic. Initially, he was never interested in comics. When he first knew I had this interest, I almost argued with him when he criticized me as childish.

Later, he had changed his mindset and demeanor gradually to please me. There were even times whereby he would volunteer to look for information for my reference.

Even though I could not explain the sudden change in him, I was more than happy with that. Undoubtedly, it was a blessing, as I could discuss something I liked with the person I loved. Thus, the moment I discovered that he was drawing comics secretly, my jaw dropped in surprise.

Out of curiosity, I kept persuading him to let me have a look at what he had drawn, but he was not willing. If not because he had emphasized that he would give me a surprise later, I would surely continue to pester him until he gave in.

Nevertheless, things had happened to turn the other way around. Instead of giving me a lovely surprise, he had cheated on me with Camille.

Then I had accidentally taken his comic manuscript and submitted it to the magazine company.

I was unaware of that till the magazine company requested to sign a contract with me one day. Only then did I realize that I had taken the wrong manuscript.

I had hesitated for quite a while, thinking if I should reveal the truth to the magazine company.

However, I was young and had a different mindset at that time. Not to mention, I was feeling dejected after Dominic cheated on me. Thus, I ended up getting a grip on myself and just let it be.

By the time I cooled my head off and thought of explaining to the magazine company, it was too late, as everything had been finalized.

It sent me into a tizzy when James asked me about my feelings when I drew the comic. Nonetheless, I was gradually prevailed over by my curiosity about what Dominic was thinking when he drew the comic.

Upon hearing my question, Dominic only threw me a glance and replied placidly, "I didn't think of anything. I was just scribbling for fun."

I pouted my lips and was not surprised that he would not reply to me properly. Scribbling for fun? Apparently, he is bluffing me, huh!

"How was it possible that you were not thinking about anything at that time? More or less, you had to spend some time planning on the characters and plot. Come on, just share with me." I continued pestering him with my sweet smile as I served him another piece of fruit.

I was convinced that sooner or later, Dominic would be willing to open up his heart to me. Anyway, I have expressed my sincerity by serving him well with the fruits and putting on my brightest smile. He should at least give me some tips, shouldn't he?

Even so, Dominic continued to button his lip regardless of how he enjoyed the fruit feeding session.

"Unlike you, I won't treat comics as a priceless treasure, and I won't invest all my time working on the thing. I drew that just to pass time," he mocked me with a smirk.

Boiling up with anger, I retorted with my cheeks puffed up. "Is there anything wrong with that? I love to draw comics. Do you have a problem with that?"

Damn it! I have spent such a long time trying to please him, but he spoils my mood with his mockery instead!