

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 46 - 50

Chapter 46 Crazy

I looked at James in confusion, hoping for him to elaborate further on what he just said, but he simply returned to his couch without another word.

Benjamin shifted his gaze between Dominic and I before breaking into a helpless, wry smile.

Mitch had a look of utter confusion on his face, so I knew his guess was probably as good as mine.

Dominic wheeled himself past me and headed for the door.

After taking a moment to think about it, I ran up to him and grabbed hold of the handle to his wheelchair.

“Where are you going?”

“Oh, now you’re coming to me?”

I pouted in response to his snarky remark, but I was too soft-hearted to let him roam about in his wheelchair this late at night.

“We’re going home.”

“Huh? We’re leaving already?” But we haven’t even been here for long!

“What, you haven’t had enough fun yet? I thought you had a great time earlier?”

He shut me up completely with that comment. I was tempted to say I didn’t have enough fun yet, but I didn’t dare anger him any further for fear of my own safety.

“I’ll be on my way now, Shannon! You guys have fun, all right?” I reluctantly waved her goodbye before turning toward James as I continued, “You’d better make sure to get Shannon home safe, you hear? I’ll come for you if anything happens to her!”

Being a lot more chivalrous than Dominic, James agreed to my request without any hesitation.

Upon leaving Royal Entertainment, I was about to hail us a cab when Dominic told me to head for the parking lot instead.

We stopped in front of a black car which I instantly recognized as the one Calvin used to pick him up in.

“You know, you didn’t have to make Calvin come all the way here like this. We could have just headed back in a cab or something.”

It must really suck being his assistant! Poor Calvin, he’s probably on standby 24/7!

I tugged at the door handle, only to realize it was locked.

That’s odd... Could it be that Calvin went looking for us?

Beep! Beep! The beeping noise of the car doors being unlocked snapped me out of my thoughts.

I took a quick glance around, but there was no sign of Calvin anywhere.

“Help me into the car.”

“Oh, okay.”

I wrapped Dominic’s arm around my shoulder as I helped him get up.

Usually, it was either Calvin doing it by himself or with some help from me.

That was the first time I had to support the weight of a two-hundred-pound man like this all by myself. I nearly sprained my hip in the process.

There was still no sign of Calvin even after I helped Dominic into the car.

“Well? What are you standing around for? Get in!”

I was about to climb into the back seat like I usually did, but he stopped me before I could do so and said something completely unexpected, “Get in the front. You’re driving.”

Wait, what? Is he seriously asking me to drive? I was dumbfounded when I heard that.

“Where’s Calvin? Could he have gone to the bathroom or something? We should probably just wait for him to come back!”

“Who said anything about him coming over? It’s just the two of us here right now. Are you expecting me to drive instead?” Dominic said coldly.

Something about what he said felt odd for some reason, but I couldn’t quite put my finger on what it was and shot him a strange look in confusion.

My primary concern was my lack of confidence in my own driving skills; I had never driven a car after getting my driver’s license.

As much as I hated the man, I didn't have it in me to get us both killed in a car accident either.

"Um, Mr. Hartnell... I'm a very terrible driver, so I think we should hail a cab instead."

Despite my attempt at explaining myself, Dominic seemed hell-bent on having me drive that night.

"I believe I've made myself very clear when I asked you to drive earlier. Do you not understand Chanaean or something?"

What the hell? I could say the exact same thing to him!

"I'm being serious here, Dominic! I can't drive! You may have a death wish, but I don't!"

I knew he was trying to spite me to get revenge for earlier, but risking both our lives like this wasn't worth it at all.

"Have you forgotten how much you owe me, Liliana? Having you die along with me is a small price compared to it."

Hearing him say that frustrated me to no end. What the hell is wrong with him today? I know he hasn't been drinking, but his rage has made him as reckless as a drunk! We're talking about life and death here, for crying out loud! You don't get a second chance if you screw up and end up dead!

"You're crazy! I don't care if you're feeling suicidal, but I'm not about to risk my life like this!"

I lashed out at him and ignored his demand. He couldn't drive the car on his own anyway.

The cab I hailed arrived about ten minutes later, and we were finally able to return to the mansion.

"You should take a shower and get some rest," I stated after leaving Dominic in his bedroom. I then returned to my room and showered before scrolling through Twitter in bed.

A notification from a friend request popped up all of a sudden, but I declined it. I never accepted friend requests from strangers online.

However, this stranger was persistent and kept sending me friend requests repeatedly even after I declined each and every one of them.

Right when I was about to report his account for spam, I received a call from Nicholas. The caller ID made me shoot excitedly out in bed.

I quickly cleared my throat as I answered the call, "Hi, Nicholas! I didn't think you'd actually call!"

I didn't expect the man to call me so soon after getting my number earlier.

He let out a chuckle and said, "I believe the point of getting someone's number is to contact them, wouldn't you agree? I wasn't actually planning on calling you this late at night, but you kept declining my friend requests, so I was afraid you'd report my account for spam."

Oh... So it was Nicholas sending me those friend requests earlier...

"Oh my god! That was you? I thought it was some weird creep! Send me another one, and I'll accept it right away!"

I can't believe I just declined the friend request of every woman's dream man!

After connecting with him online, the two of us began chatting immediately.

It was then I realized how much Nicholas and I had in common. I also discovered just how much of a comedian he was.

Some of his jokes were so funny that I found my stomach hurting from laughter.

The bedroom door was opened halfway as we conversed. Midway through the conversation, I saw a dark silhouette in the doorway.

After a brief pause, I quickly switched on the chandelier in the room and saw that it was Dominic.

Jeez, that scared me! What does he want from me this late at night?

I thought to myself as I patted my chest in an attempt to calm my nerves.

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 47

Chapter 47 He Is Fine

I jumped out of bed abruptly. My tone of voice was a little provocative as I had gotten shocked for no reason. "Mr. Hartnell, why are you not sleeping yet at this late hour? Why are you doing here? You scared the hell out of me," I uttered.

However, little did I know that Dominic was way more aggressive than I was. “You do know that it’s late at night. Why did you laugh so loudly? Are you crazy?”

Well... Nicholas told me a joke just now. That’s why I couldn’t help but laugh.

Knowing that I was in the wrong, I cleared my throat and said, “I’ll be more mindful next time.”

“Is there even going to be a next time? Who are you talking to at this hour? You look so happy.” Dominic’s eyes darkened as he looked at me.

Subconsciously, I hid my phone behind me and answered, “Nobody. I was just laughing at some reality shows.”

The man evidently didn’t believe me as he proceeded to ask me for my phone.

I refused his request without hesitation. “It’s my phone. Why should I give it to you? I have the rights to my own privacy.”

His voice grew colder as he barked out, “Hand it over to me!”

“I’m not giving it to you. Come and get it yourself if you want it so badly!” I purposely stood up from the bed and raised my hand in the air while saying that.

I stuck out my tongue provocatively. Serves him right for threatening me all the time. I’m just going to make fun of him a little. Hmph! He can’t even walk. Let’s see what’s he going to do!

“I’ll give you one last chance. Give it to me,” he said every single word through gritted teeth.

“Dominic, let’s be reasonable. This is my phone. Why do I have to give it to you? Who I chat with is none of your business.”

Is he out of his mind? Usually, he only goes crazy once in a while. I have never seen him act like this before.

Anyway, I would never give my phone to him.

Despite having my mind made up, Dominic’s gaze was too invasive. I couldn’t stand it. Therefore, I turned my head and looked out of the window.

Suddenly, I saw an extremely terrifying scene through the reflection on the window.

Dominic stood up! More surprisingly, he even started walking towards me.

My heart skipped a beat. When I turned around to see if my eyes were tricking me, I lost my balance. Stumbling wildly, I fell on the bed.

I pointed my finger at him, stuttering as I did so. I couldn't seem to form any words properly.

"Y-you... Dominic, your leg..."

I rubbed my eyes several times in shock. Dominic was really walking.

What's going on? Am I dreaming? Or am I seeing things?

"Why? Are you not happy to see my legs working properly?" The man walked towards the bedside and sat down.

That is not the main point!

He has been sitting in a wheelchair all this while. How is it possible for him to have recovered so suddenly?

"No. But, you... Your legs are fine?"

The smile Dominic flashed me sent chills down my spine. "Aren't you seeing it with your own eyes now? Should I drag you to a five thousand meters run?"

I instantly waved my hands when I heard him saying five thousand meters. I was embarrassingly bad at sports.

The recovery was a really strange feat. How is it possible that he's recovered so suddenly? That kind of thing only happens in novels! Does he have superpowers? Did he meet a divine physician? It's just too unrealistic. Unless...

Suddenly, I realized something, and my eyes widened in shock.

"Dominic, were your legs all right all this while? You've been lying to me this whole time?"

"I didn't lie to you. I was injured. I didn't say I would become crippled for the rest of my life. That's just your wishful thinking."

Well... I didn't remember him saying that. But why did he have to sit in that wheelchair every day if his leg has already recovered? He looks alright to me!

"Were you bored and wanted to play tricks? Why did you pretend to be crippled all this while?" I yelled at him in frustration.

The man sized me up a few times with a thoughtful expression and said, "If I was indeed crippled, would you feel sad? Would you be heartbroken?"

I would never feel sad for him, not to mention being heartbroken. He can dream on!

I whipped my head around and ignored him.

Such a reaction from me caused him to smile indifferently. It seemed that he wasn't about to insist on hearing my answer.

"Let's see who my caregiver is chatting with in the middle of the night... Which guy made you so happy?"

Upon hearing that, I hurriedly turned to face him. However, he had already bent over and picked up my phone from the ground.

I wished to reach out and grab it, but Dominic's leg was fine now. He towered over me when he stood up. When my phone was in his hands, I couldn't touch it at all.

"What the hell are you doing? Return it to me!"

He ignored me, proceeding to scroll through my phone. His actions and his countenance made me hopping mad. Why couldn't he respect people's privacy?

"Brilliant, Liliana!" he exclaimed in a cold tone. His facial expression gradually darkened as he did so.

"Are you done looking? Give it back to me!"

I tiptoed and tried to get my phone back.

Dominic! You're such a crazy a*shole! Before I could stop him, the man had thrown my phone to the ground, smashing it into pieces.

I moved forward to pick it up, but Dominic grabbed my hand and pulled me back forcefully. I fell back on the bed, and before I could get up, he pressed me underneath him with his entire body weight.

I was about to scold him, "Dominic, you... Mmm..."

However, his sudden kiss prohibited me from doing anything like that.

After five years, he had finally kissed me again.

In an instant, my eyes widened in disbelief, and my mind went blank.

He... How could he kiss me?

His kiss was incredibly forceful to the point where I could barely breathe. I might have passed out if he hadn't let me go at the right timing.

Wait, no! That's not the point!

I pushed Dominic away once I came back to my senses. I immediately covered my mouth and retreated to the corner of the room.

"Liliana, why haven't you learned how to kiss after such a long time? Didn't your ex-husband teach you anything?"

Upon hearing his mockery, I was infuriated as my chest heaved up and down.

"What does it have to do with you whether I know how to kiss or not? Don't you know you were acting like a jerk just now? I could've called the police!"

I wiped my mouth vigorously and shouted at him, anger lacing my tone.

"You don't want to kiss me? Then who do you want to kiss? Oh, I know! Is it Nicholas? Both of you had a really nice conversation in the middle of the night, didn't you? So what are you going to do now? Are you that desperate?"

Dominic spat those words out harshly, his eyes blazing with anger. I was shocked by his rudeness. Did he have to be that mean?

"Do you think Nicholas will be like you? You always have dirty thoughts in your mind. Apart from that, you've been lying to me and torturing me all the time. Nicholas is the perfect man of every woman's dreams. He is so much better than you!"

I was beginning to feel slightly dizzy as anger overwhelmed me. I didn't even notice how terrible Dominic's facial expression had become.

"Okay, fine. I have a dirty mind. I have been torturing you all this while. Am I right? Nicholas is way better than me. Is that true? Are you happy to hear that?"

Dominic approached me slowly as he spoke. Then, he reached out his hand and pulled me over when he was right in front of my face.

"What are you doing? Let go of me!" I kept struggling.

His face was clouded over, and I was terrified by his cold voice of tone. "Liliana, do you know how dirty my mind is? I shall let you see for yourself today!"

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 48

Chapter 48 Bitten By A Dog

I was really scared to see Dominic behaving like that.

He was like an enraged lion when a menacing glare flashed across his eyes.

“Dominic, let go of me! Let’s calm down and talk things over... Stop... “

“Talk things over?” At my words, he burst out laughing. “You have already made things clear. We only have to put your words into action now!”

“You... You a*shole! Dominic, don’t make me hate you... Dominic... “

All my curses and cries were buried by his forceful kiss.

I couldn’t break free from him due to his tight grip.

Dominic let out a half-suppressed laugh before scowling, “Aren’t you a married woman? Are you still trying to remain chaste?”

He still didn’t forget to take a dig at me at this timing. This fool was truly out of his mind.

“It’s none of your business! Let me go now! You should know that this is illegal!”

“It’s only illegal when it’s without consent from both parties. But, you... Maybe you will beg me for it later. Who knows?”

“Dream on! Why would I do that?” I scoffed. I’m not that desperate for a man’s touch!

At that, Dominic smirked and pressed his lips against mine again.

Soon after, I heard a weird sound coming from my mouth. I immediately bit my lip tight.

“See? Your body is reacting to my kiss.” Feeling smug, he put on a sly smile.

I remained silent. I did not dare speak, too afraid that I would make that sound again if I opened my mouth.

At that moment, I mustered my strength up and pushed Dominic away. Then, I hurriedly scrambled towards the door.

I had only taken a few steps before he grabbed my hand and pinned me down. He made me face down on the bed.

He then leaned over and whispered, “You have nowhere to run. This is only the beginning.”

“We can’t do this... Don’t... Ah!” I lifted my head up and let out a moan.

Although I was married, I wasn’t really good in bed.

All of a sudden, I lost my power to think rationally. My body was reacting to the sensations all on its own.

Suddenly, I was reminded of my first time with Dominic. Back then, he was extremely cautious. He had paid so much attention to my feelings our first time together.

Things were different now. He didn’t care if he was touching me against my will — he didn’t care about my feelings at all.

Dominic, why did you become like this? Dominic...

Those memories in my mind were soon being eroded.

At that moment, he halted all his movements.

I didn’t want to look at him. My cheeks were burning up. Hence, I turned my face to the other side.

“Why are you so shy? It’s not your first time. Liliana, you should take a look at both of us. Do you still think it’s not consensual?”

His voice was deep and raspy, but strangely, it aroused me. How seductive!

I wanted to say something, but an embarrassing moan came out of my mouth automatically before words could come out.

Dominic instantly smiled. “Be a good girl. Just enjoy the moment.”

And finally, the session of intimacy came to an end.

I pulled the blanket around my body to cover myself up. Meanwhile, Dominic was already putting on his clothes.

“We...” I parted my lips, but I didn’t know how to express my thoughts.

The man turned and walked towards me upon hearing my voice. He reached forward to wrap me in his arms.

“What? Don’t get me wrong. We’re all adults who can be physically intimate with one another. It’s no big deal.”

I lowered my head. “That’s right. I was afraid that you might have misunderstood.”

I tried my best to sound indifferent. However, I instinctively gripped the bed sheets tightly.

Suddenly, Dominic held my chin and lifted my head up.

Against my will, tears started rolling down from the corner of my eyes.

He was stunned to see me cry, and he kept silent, staying still for quite a long time.

I didn't know why I couldn't stop my tears from falling down.

After being in a daze for a long while, Dominic released his grip on me. I fell onto the bed with momentum.

"Liliana, stop crying. Do you think I am still the same person I was before?"

It wasn't the same. Everything had changed. It wouldn't bother Dominic if he saw me crying.

I wiped the tears off my face before asking, "Are you done talking? Could you please leave?"

"Why? Are you mad at me because I am not gullible anymore? I wasn't born yesterday. Actually, you don't have to be so upset. We were getting along quite well even though we have no feelings for each other. Isn't that the truth? You kept wailing and refusing me, but your body is way more honest than your heart. What's the point of telling those terrible lies? I could easily see through you."

After finishing his words, he slammed the door and left.

I lay on the bed like a marionette with broken strings. I buried my face in the pillow. Tears started welling up in my eyes, and I let them stream down, watching silently as they slowly disappeared in the cotton pillowcase.

After lying there for a long time, I endured the pain and struggled to get up. I grabbed a fresh set of clothes and stepped into the bathroom.

After finishing my shower, I squeezed all my stuff into the luggage. Then, I carried my laptop with me and left Dominic's house.

I didn't know what the time was, but it was pitch black outside. I wished to hail a taxi, but not a soul was in sight.

Despite that, I still had to leave. It made me sick for staying there a second longer.

I dragged my luggage and kept walking all the way to the main road. Finally, I managed to hail a taxi.

I had moved into Dominic's house right after leaving Julius. As I made my way into the taxi, I came to the realization that there was nowhere for me to go.

Since there was no other option, I gave the taxi driver Shannon's house address.

When I arrived at my destination, the woman was surprised to see me. "Liliana, you... What happened to you?"

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 49

Chapter 49 It Was Approved

"Please let me in. I'm exhausted."

With that, I squeezed through the door and collapsed onto the couch, drained by all that had happened.

Not only was I sleep-deprived, but I was also worn out and drained of energy after a long walk with my suitcase.

"Shannon, I'm hungry. Is there anything to eat?" I asked.

The woman stared blankly at me and responded, after thinking for a while, "Do you want spaghetti?"

"Sure, please add some veggies, egg, and ham," I replied without hesitation.

Shannon acted quickly. After ten minutes, she came out of the kitchen with a plate of delicious spaghetti and placed it opposite me on the other side of the table.

Shannon gripped the plate tightly when I stretched out a weary arm to grab it, causing me to frown.

"Liliana, look at the time! Do you know how late it is? Don't you think you should give me an explanation first?"

Right away, I glanced at her phone and realized it was half-past three in the morning. My upper lip curled slightly in a faint scowl. "When I was asleep just now, a mad dog suddenly rushed in and bit me. I was scared to death, so I came over to look for you."

"Mad dog? Hello, you live in a bungalow! Even if you were scared, what's all this with you? Are you going to stay here?"

Shannon pointed at my suitcase and bag, looking puzzled.

“Please let me have the spaghetti first. I’ll explain things to you slowly once I eat.”

I could not help but groan inwardly. Oh gosh... Stop questioning me! I’m starving! What kind of friend is she?

With that, Shannon shot me a disgruntled glance before pushing the plate toward me.

I cleaned my plate within seconds.

“My goodness, you look famished instead of scared! Now, you still haven’t answered my question. Spill.”

“Shannon, I’ll stay here for a few days and move out once I’ve got a suitable place. As for the dog, it was true — I didn’t lie to you. I need to get some sleep now. Please don’t disturb me.”

I’m telling the truth. Dominic behaves like a rabid dog! He can’t be reasoned with!

I lay horizontally on the couch and hugged my coat tightly to my body, feeling exhausted. In the blink of an eye, I fell asleep.

When I woke up, I could smell the aromas of sizzling bacon and fresh-brewed coffee.

That smell was getting me hungry. It was a well-known fact that Shannon cooked better than me.

“Oh, you got up right on time for breakfast! You really picked the right moment, didn’t you? I was about to wake you up,” Shannon said as she came out of the kitchen, holding a spatula.

I could not agree more with her sarcastic remark.

After having breakfast, I grabbed my phone and went out. My phone screen was all cracked, and I was unsure if it could still work. I would have to purchase a new one if it couldn’t.

I soon arrived at the phone repair shop and handed my phone to the technician for inspection. He then told me the phone could be repaired, but I decided to give up after getting the quote. I would rather buy a new one.

After I purchased a new phone and replaced the SIM card, I headed back to Shannon’s place.

If it were not for the fact that I had been using that phone number for so many years, I would've definitely gotten a new phone number. The inconvenience of changing it also convinced me not to.

I sat on the couch, idly setting up my new phone. When I was about to log in to my WhatsApp account, my phone rang.

Without hesitation, I answered the call, only to realize it was Dominic. Right away, I hung up.

The man called again, but I did not pick up the call.

After a while, I received two text messages from him.

Dominic asked me where I was and ordered me to go back to his place. Huh, he isn't remorseful for what he has done!

That b*stard even threatened me and said I was going to regret it.

Oh yeah? Well, I regret not kicking his balls last night!

I did not reply to him. After deleting his messages, I blocked his phone number.

From now on, I've got nothing to do with Dominic. As for last night, I should take it me being drunk and having a one-night stand. Oh well, no big deal!

Then, I logged in to my WhatsApp account and realized that Nicholas had sent a few messages to me. He was asking me why there was suddenly no reply from my side and whether I was alright.

I replied to him: I'm sorry. I suddenly fell asleep last night. Don't worry, I'm fine!

With that, I stared at my phone and waited for a while. Upon seeing that he did not reply to my text, I placed my phone down.

He must be very busy. He's a celebrity, after all.

After having dinner, Shannon accompanied me on my search for a house online. There were a few houses that looked good, and we planned to visit those houses the following day for an inspection.

However, I received a call from Flash around nine o'clock the next morning, informing me that they had approved my rough draft and sketch. They requested me to go to their office in the afternoon to discuss it in detail. They wanted me to sign the contract as well as the non-disclosure agreement.

Thus, it left me no choice but to postpone the house inspection.

In the afternoon, Shannon and I headed to Flash.

Initially, I thought I was going to draw the poster for the upcoming movie. Much to my surprise, they suddenly informed me that there was a change of plan.

I was utterly confused about the whole arrangement. If my rough draft was not intended for that movie, why did they adopt it?

Nevertheless, I almost jumped for joy when they told me what I was going to draw.

Being my editor, Shannon was also bursting with joy.

Surprisingly, Flash had decided to ask me to draw the poster for the TV drama and comic book version of "The Wind And Cloud."

It was a newly released fantasy novel that was gaining popularity. Many considered it a masterpiece.

Besides, the production company had proclaimed that Nicholas and Scarlett would play the male and female lead, starring roles respectively in that drama series.

The two actors had worked together many times before, and they were the fans' favorite TV couples. With all these factors, this piece of work would definitely be a hit.

Yet, I felt conflicted when Flash requested me to follow the film crew in order to find inspiration from their early-stage filming.

That means I'm going to stay out for at least a month.

This is unreasonable! It doesn't make sense for me to follow the film crew for the sake of producing a better comic.

"Mr. Miller, I'm fine with the rest of the terms, but following the film crew isn't something I can agree on. Um... alternatively, you could send the video to me after the shooting. Then, I'll watch it and draw the comic. Anyhow, it works in the same way."

Jason Miller was the person in charge of the Advertising Department in Flash. I tried discussing the matter with him, hoping that he could help me put forward my proposal.

Unfortunately, he rejected my proposal right away. "Ms. Zanetti, this drama is our company's highlight for the first quarter of next year. As long as we haven't completed the filming or set the exact broadcast date and time, we must keep everything confidential."

He then continued, "I hope you can understand. It'll take a month at most. You must observe the character traits and expressions of the starring role. You won't need to follow the crew after getting the hang of it. Trust me when I say it won't take too long."

Indeed, the man listed all the logical and perfectly justified reasons. As such, I was rendered speechless.

"Excuse me, Mr. Miller! Could I have a word with Ms. Zanetti?" Shannon suddenly interrupted us.

After getting Jason's permission, she pulled me aside.

"Don't hesitate! Just follow the film crew and treat it as a tour, since you have never done it before. Besides, you can watch the idols acting up close. What a great opportunity! Well, I don't mind accompanying you."

Shannon then added, "Liliana, don't miss this golden opportunity!"

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 50

Chapter 50 Collusion

I guess Shannon has a point...

I must be very lucky to have come across such an opportunity.

If my comic is well-drawn, I might become a famous cartoonist in this country.

After thinking about it, I realized it was quite possible for things to turn out far beyond what I could imagine.

Therefore, I entered into a contract with Flash and signed the non-disclosure agreement without hesitation.

If I disclosed any relevant news during the filming period, I would have to compensate the company. Besides, I had to keep the information about the comic confidential. They would only announce the simultaneous release of the drama and the comic when the drama premiered.

At the moment, they were making final preparations, and the filming was estimated to officially commence at the end of next month.

Luckily, I still had more than a month to settle things on my end.

First of all, I had to go home and inform my parents that I had divorced Julius.

Indeed, it was a wonderful day — my wishes were all coming true.

Shannon and I planned to have a celebration after signing the agreement, so we went to a café for a drink.

Suddenly, I received a message from Nicholas: I just finished my work and saw your message. Good to know that you're fine.

I replied: Don't worry! I get it. Look at you! You've been so busy. Take care and have a good rest!

He then responded: Why don't you have dinner with me? It's so pathetic to eat alone, and I'll lose my appetite.

After reading his cheeky message, I could not help but chuckle.

Is he trying to act cute?

"Look at the silly smile on your face! Who are you chatting with?" Shannon stared at me with curiosity.

I raised my arm, beckoning her over. After she leaned toward me, I showed her my phone and whispered, "It's your idol, Nicholas! He said he'll lose his appetite if he has dinner alone."

Immediately, I was rendered speechless when I saw the glint of excitement in her eyes. Shannon swooned at the sight of every attractive guy she saw.

Seeing that she was getting dizzy with excitement, I decided to change the subject matter at hand.

Then, I replied to Nicholas: Shannon and I are at a café along Bourbon Street. Do you want to join us for dinner?

Right away, he responded: Sure, wait for me!

I did not expect him to come over as it would be troublesome if others recognized him.

To avoid unnecessary trouble, I asked the boss for a private room. Once he got it prepared, I dragged Shannon to the room.

After two appetizers were served, a man wearing metal-framed glasses opened the door and walked into the room.

I blinked my eyes and stared at the man who looked like Nicholas. Is that him? Wait a minute... this man looks a bit different. That's weird!

"I've disguised my appearance perfectly, haven't I?" Instantly, I recognized that voice. It was indeed Nicholas.

I stared at him with my mouth wide open, surprised. I hadn't actually expected him to show up.

How did he get here without being surrounded by his fans?

When celebrities go out, they normally wear caps, sunglasses, and masks, don't they? He sure is bold!

"D-did anyone recognize you?" I stammered.

"I'm wearing makeup. Now, I'm just someone who looks like Nicholas Scott. Even if I walk in the crowd, they will only glance at me without realizing my real identity."

He is really quite something to have come up with such an idea!

At that moment, a waitress came in to serve the food. Her attention was drawn to Nicholas immediately. Upon seeing her land her gaze on the man, my hands turned cold and clammy, whereas he remained calm.

"Mister, you look like my idol!" the waitress exclaimed with her voice trembling with excitement.

Nicholas smiled. "I know. Do you mean Nicholas Scott? Many friends have said that as well, but unfortunately, he is more handsome than me."

Once again, his words set off a ripple of excitement within her. The waitress even began claiming that Nicholas was indeed the most handsome man.

Both Shannon and I were utterly dumbfounded. In fact, the former had been gaping at Nicholas in silence from the beginning.

He really was amazing.

The three of us enjoyed our dinner. Despite wanting to, I did not tell Nicholas I was going to draw the comic for "The Wind And Cloud" as I was supposed to keep things confidential.

Let's see how it goes after I join the film crew.

The next day, after having inspected five houses, I decided to rent the one-bedroom apartment at North Park. It was big enough for me to live alone.

I paid for the rental and took the keys. Then, I headed back to Shannon's place to get my stuff as I planned to move in that night.

When I was on my way, I received a call from Galaxy Entertainment.

Why are they calling me? Didn't I settle everything?

"Ms. Zanetti, there's something wrong with the contract we signed earlier. Do you mind coming over to our office for a discussion?"

Upon hearing that, my heart hammered in my chest. Could it be Dominic causing trouble for me after I've left him?

Huh, I haven't even sued this b*stard for rape! How dare he play such a dirty trick!

After that night, I don't think I owe him anything. If he dares to stir up trouble, I'll definitely sue!

Still, I felt a little uneasy and wanted to find out more. "Well, what's the problem? We dealt with it according to the normal procedures, didn't we? Besides, there shouldn't be any problem as the contract was drafted by your company."

However, the person on the other end of the phone refused to reveal any further information, insisting that I come over to their office for a face-to-face discussion.

So, I had no choice but to ask the driver to send me to Galaxy Corporation, though I was reluctant.

After I arrived at the building, I walked into the lobby with my suitcase. Soon, a young lady in a white blouse and black pencil skirt approached me.

"Are you Ms. Zanetti? Please come with me."

I felt unsettled as I could not figure out what had gone wrong with the contract. The fact that they had sent someone to wait for me in the lobby made me nervous.

That lady took me to a meeting room and then motioned me to go in.

Before I entered, I tidied myself up. I raked my fingers through my hair and retied a ponytail.

I thought there would be many people waiting for me in the meeting room. However, after I walked into the room, only one person was sitting at the center of the conference table.

Much to my surprise, it was Dominic.

As soon as I realized it was him, I immediately turned to reach for the doorknob.

Damn it, the door is locked!

“Why don’t you smash down the door and go out?” His grating voice came from behind.

I wished I could smash the door down, but there was only one chair in the huge meeting room, and he was sitting in it.

F*ck! He must have colluded with James.

These two are really evildoers. How dare they screw me over!

Since I was unable to escape, I could only stay away from him. Instantly, I let go of my suitcase and ran toward the corner farthest away from him.

Yet, the man did not seem to be in a hurry. Instead, he strolled toward me leisurely.

It left me no choice but to run to the other side of the room.

I kept running, and he trailed after me slowly. In the end, I was drenched in sweat in the air-conditioned room, whereas he was well dressed, looking happy and contented.

I felt as if I was about to burst from rage when I paused and turned to glare at him.

“What on earth do you want?”