

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 76 - 80

Chapter 76 As long As He Does Not Violate Me

The sound seemed very close to me, and I wondered whether Julius was back. Roughly discerning the direction in which the sound originated, I pinned my gaze there without even blinking once.

A few minutes passed, but still, no one came into sight despite the continual noise.

“Is that you, Julius?” I couldn’t help asking in a holler.

My voice reverberated around the space, yet there was no sign of anyone.

Subsequently, I felt something scurrying across my lap even as squeaks drifted into my ears.

Oh my God, it’s a rat! Fear struck me, and I shuddered violently.

I inexorably tucked my legs closer to my body.

Ugh! I’m most terrified of rats! I’m not even afraid of whatever Julius might do to me now, be it hitting me or tearing into me. At least he’s a living person, and it’s way better than being here alone with those creatures!

At the thought of him, Coraline came to mind.

Jeez, how stupid am I that I was duped again? As the saying goes, once bitten, twice shy. Everyone knows that except me. Despite having been sabotaged by them both countless times on end, I was still dumbly eager to put myself in the line of fire. Gah! Oh well, Coraline’s acting skills were truly top-notch as well, even surpassing that of Nicholas and Scarlett’s.

I lifted my head and stared up at the infinite sea of pitch-black darkness above me. A sense of utter helplessness inundated me.

If only I’d known that things would come to this, I would’ve immediately told Dominic where I was when he phoned me. Why the hell did I act so childishly? I wonder if he would be able to find me when I only said Ho for Horington. Argh!

After an indeterminate amount of time, a sound snagged my attention again. This time, I could tell that it was the sound of footsteps.

Sure enough, Julius entered my line of sight with a bag in his hand after a few minutes.

Whipping out a tablet from the bag, he placed it before me.

“Tell your lover to prepare five million if he wants to see you again. Also, warn him that he’s not allowed to lodge a police report.”

Hearing that, my eyes instantly went wide. Five million? He must have really lost his mind! If he wants his initial five hundred thousand, Dominic will probably be willing to pay, but he has actually jacked it up tenfold! Putting aside the fact that Dominic might not have that much money, our relationship doesn’t warrant him paying that exorbitant sum. Who am I to him, after all?

“Julius, I really didn’t spend even a single penny of your five hundred thousand, so they can probably give you that much. But don’t you think five million is too much? How could he—”

Slap!

A crisp smack interrupted me before I could finish. In the next moment, my cheek smarted once more.

Then, Julius grabbed my hair and yanked it backward, jerking my head up.

“Stop yakking! I’m not asking you for money! Why? Are you that distressed on behalf of your lover? Liliana, you should actually thank me. This is a test for him, you know?” he drawled.

Right on the heels of that, his tone abruptly changed. In a cold and ominous voice, he threatened, “Later, just repeat whatever I tell you. Don’t you dare utter a single word more, or I’ll break your leg!”

I could still feel my scalp stinging, and his threat echoed in my ears, so I truly didn’t dare say anything else.

“Okay, I’ll repeat whatever you say. S-So, how should I do it?”

When Julius saw that I was being all docile and meek, he finally released his grip on my hair.

Tapping the voice recorder software on the tablet, he brought it close to my mouth. “Go on.”

By then, the time had already started ticking. After casting him a glance, I began repeating everything he said earlier under his intent scrutiny, his gaze dark and chilly.

As soon as I uttered the final word, he yanked the tablet away.

He fiddled with it for a long moment before putting it away. Then, he took out a bottle of mineral water from the bag and unscrewed the cap. I saw him dropping a pill into the water before he brought it to my mouth.

Whoa! Is he kidding me? I saw him drugging the water, so why would I still drink it?

I bit my lip hard, refusing to open my mouth.

At that, he reached out and grasped my chin forcefully without a single word. Hauling me up, he then slammed his knee against my abdomen.

When excruciating pain assaulted me, my mouth instinctively opened from the agony. That was my downfall, for he instantly started pouring the water into my mouth.

Water went into my nostrils and down my throat while streaming down my neck, almost choking me.

“We’re going somewhere else now, so you’ve got to behave!” Julius declared glacially.

I sprawled on the floor, panting. All of a sudden, he untied the rope binding me.

While I felt much better without the rope restraining me, I didn’t think he would be so kind for no reason.

I wanted to prop my hand against the wall and stand up, but just after I got an inch off the floor, my knees went weak before I collapsed on my butt again.

However, it didn’t feel as though my legs were numb after having sat motionless for a long time. Instead, they were truly sapped of all energy, leaving me too weak to even move.

“W-What did you do to me? The drug in the water earlier...” To my horror, I realized that it wasn’t just my legs, but even my hands could no longer work now.

Worse still, I felt wholly exhausted despite only having uttered those few words just now. It felt as though my tongue and lips weren’t working anymore either.

Julius, on the other hand, seemed pleased with my current condition. With a malevolent and creepy smile, he replied, “It won’t kill you. You just can’t move or talk. You’ll feel like your entire body was drained of energy.”

My eyes widened further, but my senses continued to dull. I opened my mouth, but only whimpers came out.

At that moment, Julius extended a hand toward my chest. Unexpectedly, he yanked my shirt open. All at once, I felt the cool air brushing against my skin.

Right then, I was entirely at his mercy, for I couldn't even turn without his help.

He took off my clothes one after another, stripping me down to my underwear.

I could feel his hands sliding across my skin, disgusting me so greatly that I wanted to puke.

"You must have been getting it frequently these days, huh, Liliana? Look at how sensitive you are. What a sl*t, you b*tch!" As Julius said that, he slapped me several times again.

Having endured so many slaps at the same side in such a short time, my face is probably so swollen that it can rival a pufferfish.

Nevertheless, he didn't grope me further after having smacked me. Next, he took out some bland clothes from the bag and put them on me.

Boy, am I glad that he has a virginity complex! I don't mind him hitting me as long as he doesn't violate me.

Subsequently, he put a cap and mask on me. Scooping me up, he then walked out.

Oh, no wonder he drugged me. Otherwise, he probably wouldn't dare carry me out like this.

The sky was still dark, and it seemed as though it was right before dawn.

I wonder if we're still in Horington. And where is he planning to take me?

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 77

Chapter 77 Out Of The Woods

I darted my eyes around, but all that greeted me were sloping hills and farmland. The place I had been kept in appeared to be an abandoned granary.

Julius forged ahead with me in his arms, only stopping when he reached the side of the road. I sensed that he was waiting for someone or a car. Incredulity flooded me.

Isn't he afraid that someone will see him?

Shortly after, a rickety van came to a stop before us. A tanned and stocky man proceeded to climb out of the vehicle.

I didn't recognize him, and I initially thought that he was Julius' accomplice. But after listening to their conversation, I felt that it wasn't quite the case. Instead, it sounded like a car service.

Julius didn't talk much to the man before he carried me into the vehicle. The van promptly started moving again.

After some time, it came to a stop. By then, the sky had already lightened considerably.

When the man driving the van left, Julius carried me into a small bungalow.

While we were on our way in earlier, small bungalows such as this littered both sides of the road. It was exceedingly messy, and an unpleasant stench lingered in the air.

Julius placed me on the bed before binding my hands and legs with the rope once again. Then, he left with the tablet.

Hmm... he's probably going to fiddle with the recording, but I really wonder how he's going to send it to Dominic. Jeez, I didn't expect him to demand five million! I don't even know whether Dominic can save me.

I wiggled slightly, but my hands and legs were securely bound. If only I could move, I'd get to the door and cry for help even if I had to crawl there on my hands and knees!

Recalling my paralyzed condition then, a bolt of fear suddenly lanced through me. Ugh! What kind of drug did he give me? If I'm to remain like this for the rest of my life, I'd rather he just kill me.

I had no idea what kind of place it was, but I kept hearing noises from outside soon after Julius left.

I was thrilled at first, thinking that someone was coming to my rescue. However, not a single soul appeared though the racket grew all the louder.

Oh wow, he actually left me all alone in a populated place and went off by himself!

Laying on the bed, I tried my best to keep my eyes open while my gaze remained fixated on the door. I truly hoped that someone would come in and save me.

Dominic clings to me like a burr that I simply can't shake off when I don't want to see him. But now that I need him, he hasn't appeared even after such a long time has passed. How ironic!

Just then, I heard a click before the room door swung open. Julius was back.

He sat down on the edge of the bed and patted my face. A jubilant smirk tugged at his lips as he sneered, "I didn't know that he regards you so dearly that he would agree to pay five million without even an ounce of hesitation."

At his remark, a thousand questions promptly popped up in my mind.

Dominic actually agreed? Then, has Julius gotten the money? Is he going to let me go now?

“Don’t worry, for I’ll certainly let you go after receiving the money.”

For some inexplicable reason, I didn’t feel the slightest bit of joy when I heard him saying that he would let me go. Conversely, a chill ran down my spine.

The expression on his face was too bizarre, and the vicious glint in his eyes made me want to shy away from him instinctively.

Julius grinned, baring his teeth at me. I saw him putting something into the mineral water again, and it was two pills this time.

As before, he yanked on my hair and forced my mouth open, pouring the entire bottle of water down my throat.

The moment he released his hold on me, I slumped back onto the bed as though boneless. I could only watch as he left again.

The first time this happened, I was still aware although I couldn’t move or speak.

Now, however, I gradually felt my head growing heavier. I started seeing double, and despite my best efforts to keep my eyes open, I slowly slipped into the darkness.

I felt as though I was dreaming. Many people were calling out to me in the dream, and someone even shook me.

The voices were very familiar—my parents, Dominic, and also Shannon. Their voices washed over me in complete pandemonium.

Such a dream repeated itself time and again, the voices becoming clearer each time.

In the end, I felt my mother’s presence right beside me, her voice sounding right next to my ear.

“Lili, Lili... Lili, I’m right here... Won’t you please wake up, Lili?”

She seemed to be crying, and that prompted questions to flood my mind. What’s wrong with her? And what happened to me? Why is she asking me to wake up?

On the heels of that, a sigh sounded.

I could tell that it came from my father.

What’s going on here? Why does he sound so sad?

I seemed to see a sliver of light and something hovering on the edges of my vision. Is that... Mom?

My vision cleared, and I saw that it was indeed my mother who was weeping.

“Uh... M-Mom.” I tried several times before I could finally speak aloud.

“Lili?” Tears stained my mother’s face, and it was a completely different look from her usual aplomb.

“Dear, Dear, hurry up and call the doctor! Ask Dr. Baker to come! Lili is awake!”

I didn’t hear my father speak, but a flurry of flustered and urgent footsteps gradually faded into the distance.

My mother threw herself onto me and hugged me tightly as she called my name repeatedly.

“Mom, I-I’m fine.” I wanted to hug her back, but I couldn’t lift my hands.

“Fine, you said? Do you know that you almost died?” She sobbed in anguish, but I could hear a hint of elation bubbling out.

My father then came back with Dominic behind him. There were also several doctors, including Yvonne.

My mother was then pulled away by my father. The few doctors crowded in and started examining me. Dominic was standing right beside my bed, so I could see him the moment I turned my head to the side.

He seemed to be much more haggard, with stubble lining his jaw. Besides, he was also very pale, his eyes alarmingly bloodshot.

After Yvonne was done examining me, she asked my father to step out for a moment. Glancing at me, Dominic followed as well.

Meanwhile, my mother sat down on the chair beside the bed and clutched my hand tightly.

By then, I was almost fully clear-headed. I remembered Julius and the fact that he drugged me.

“How long was I unconscious, Mom?”

I had lost track of time ever since Julius kidnapped me, so I had no idea how long had passed.

“Three days. You were unconscious for three long days. Your father and I didn’t even dare believe it when Dom phoned us.” As my mother spoke, her voice turned choked.

“Don’t cry anymore, Mom. Otherwise, your eyes will become swollen. I’ll definitely be up and about in no time,” I comforted her.

Wiping her tears, my mother nodded and asserted, “That’s right! My daughter will definitely live a long and healthy life, so I’m not crying anymore.”

I instantly felt much lighter when she ceased weeping.

As time ticked by, I threw multiple glances at the door. When Dominic returned, I wanted to ask him whether Julius had been apprehended. Also, there’s the issue of the five million... He’s probably not that dumb, right?

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 78

Chapter 78 Being A Good Samaritan Is No Cakewalk

Unexpectedly, Shannon arrived before Dominic and my father returned.

When my mother saw that I had Shannon keeping me company, she took the jug out to get some hot water.

After seeing that I had awakened when she stepped in, Shannon was so excited that a grin split her face. However, the smile only lasted for two seconds before tears streamed down her face like a faucet.

“What are you doing, Shannon, crying and laughing at the same time?” I stared at her in exasperation. Good heavens! I’ve finally gotten Mom to stop crying, yet it’s now her turn to turn on the waterworks!

Dashing the tears off her face, Shannon sniffled. “I’m just happy. Why didn’t you inform me when you woke up, girl? Do you know how worried I was?”

“All right, all right, I’m fine now, no?” I consoled her with a smile. “Wipe your face properly. You’re looking ghastly with your makeup all smeared.”

“I was concerned about you, but you ridicule me for being ghastly? I’ll punch you!” Shannon screeched indignantly.

“Can you bring yourself to do so when I’m a patient now?” I countered with a wink.

Upon hearing that, Shannon grew nervous. Sitting down beside the bed, she solemnly inquired, “So, how are you doing? What did the doctor say?”

“I don’t know either. My father and Dominic left with the doctor. Anyway, I’m probably fine since I’m awake. Don’t worry.”

In truth, I was still rather perturbed about the drug Julius gave me. I had no idea whether it would have any side effects, especially when I was still feeling weak and listless.

Thus, that remark was both for Shannon and me. In a way, I was trying to soothe myself.

“Liliana, tell me honestly—what’s your relationship with Dominic?” Out of the blue, Shannon leaned close to me with curiosity written all over her face.

I was startled for a moment before I averted my gaze and fibbed, “I don’t have a relationship with him. He’s just a friend of Benjamin’s.”

“Yeah, right.” Shannon wore an expression of disbelief as though she had just heard that the earth was flat. “The two of you have no relationship, you say? Then, why did he keep watch here every day? Did he have nothing better to do? Furthermore, he was almost feral when he stormed up to my house the other day.”

“He went to your house? Why on earth did he do so?” Puzzlement swamped me.

Huffily rolling her eyes at me, Shannon then related the incident that day to me.

“To inquire about your whereabouts. I said I had no idea, but he pressed me for an answer, knocking me for a six. I asked him why he was looking for you, but he refused to answer. And when he left, he almost broke my door. His aggressiveness seemed off to me, but I couldn’t get through to you either. In the end, I only knew that you’d been kidnapped when I sought Benjamin out. Later, when we found you, you were unconscious. You know, Dominic’s reaction then was so intense that I shudder even at the mere recollection of it now.” Shannon pierced me with her penetrating eyes. “Do you still dare say that there’s nothing between you both now? Are you two dating?”

From what she said, it seems that he has been exceedingly worried about me?

Admittedly, a spark of delight ignited within me, followed by an inappropriate sense of anticipation. Nonetheless, I would never admit it.

It’s the truth anyway. What kind of relationship do I have with him? If I’ve got to describe it, we’re probably friends with benefits right now. I haven’t forgotten that he still has Camille.

Shannon, however, refused to believe me. I was just racking my brains to convince her when Dad and Dominic came back. Mom was also with them, making it evident that she had gone in search of them earlier.

“Mom, Dad, what did the doctor say?” Frankly speaking, I was still feeling a tad uneasy.

Before my parents could say anything, Dominic interjected, "You're fine and can be discharged in a few days."

"Yeah, the doctor said that you can be discharged in no time, so don't worry," my father echoed.

I looked at Dominic suspiciously before turning my gaze on my father, finding the entire exchange rather strange.

At that turn of events, Shannon stopped pursuing the subject. She then chimed in, "In that case, why don't you both go home and have a rest, Mr. and Mrs. Zanetti? You haven't been resting well these few days. I'll stay and keep Liana company."

When I heard that, I no longer bothered to contemplate the perceived oddness earlier. Following her lead, I persuaded my parents to go home and rest.

I had long since noticed the obvious exhaustion on my mother's face, after all. They must have been tormented when I remained unconscious.

Initially, my parents refused to leave. They only relented in the end when I threatened not to rest either if they didn't do so.

Later, it was Dominic who drove them home. While leaving, he even coerced Shannon to leave despite her wanting to stay, claiming that I needed to rest quietly.

Shannon almost burst a blood vessel at his underhanded snub. Nevertheless, I didn't insist on her staying either, lest she continued asking about my relationship with Dominic.

It was only after she had left that I remembered I forgot to ask her about Flash. Considering my current condition, I certainly couldn't join the film crew. To make matters worse, I couldn't even start drawing the comic as scheduled.

Anyway, she'll still handle everything well, even if I don't mention anything. I just wonder whether Flash will consider it a breach of contract. I don't have any money for the compensation!

I was energetic earlier with someone to talk to me, but the fact remained that I had just regained consciousness. Hence, now that I was alone, I dozed off again in no time.

When I next woke up, the sky outside was dark. The only source of light in the hospital room was the lit lamp at the door.

"You're awake?"

It wasn't until I heard the voice did I realize that Dominic was sitting right beside my bed. I never expected him to return after having driven my parents home to rest.

There were dark circles under his eyes, making it clear as day that he hadn't rested much. "Why didn't you go home to sleep?"

"Your parents were worried about you being alone," he answered nonchalantly.

"Oh, I see." Mild disappointment hit me upon learning that he only came back because of my parents.

Thereafter, he started admonishing me, "I've never seen someone as stupid as you! Have you never heard of the saying, 'Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me?' Don't you know your ex-husband and his mother's character? They simply feigned pitifulness, and you eagerly rushed over to be a kind Samaritan. You're quite the expert at repaying evil with good."

Although his words were cutting, I didn't refute them. I knew that I had indeed been too foolish this time.

When he was done castigating me, I slowly murmured, "I won't do it again. Thank you for saving me this time."

"I really hope so," he asserted coldly. "Stop being so sympathetic every single time. Tell you what, being a good Samaritan is no cakewalk."

Knowing that his words made sense, I silently listened to him.

After some time, I queried, "By the way, how did you find me? Also, Julius said he wanted five million from you. You didn't give him the money, right?"

Casting me a sidelong glance, Dominic drawled, "He was delusional, and you were infected as well? You're not worth five million. As for how I found you, it was naturally the police who did so. How else did you think I found you? Mainly, it was because that ex-husband of yours is brainless. Anyway, just stay out of this. With your intellect, you won't understand even if you ask so many questions. In a nutshell, he's not going to see the day of light for the rest of his life."

I choked at his words. Argh! How many times does he have to insult me in a single breath?

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 79

Chapter 79 Inexplicably Disappeared

Seething, I glowered at Dominic. Yet, I remained quiet as I didn't know what to say.

Finally, I closed my eyes morosely and muttered, "Hurry up and leave. I want to sleep."

He's still his usual self, all right. His barbs can make someone burst a blood vessel anytime.

I closed my eyes for a long time, but I didn't hear the door opening or closing. Having run out of patience, I opened my eyes again. As soon as I turned my head, I spotted Dominic sitting on the couch.

At the sight of him, I was taken aback for a moment, at a loss as to why he was still here.

"Didn't I ask you to go home, Dominic? Why are you still here?"

"This is a public space, so why do you care whether I leave? Hurry up and sleep," he replied placidly.

"Whatever!" I huffed. Then, I kept silent.

Ugh! Speaking to him is just inviting scorn! Why on earth was I so stupid to open myself to criticism?

This time, I kept my eyes screwed shut and ignored him entirely. Surprisingly, I fell asleep very quickly and even slept through the night.

The moment I woke up in the morning, I instinctually looked at the couch. Dominic was no longer there though I wasn't sure whether he had left in the wee hours.

Nonetheless, I wasn't all that bothered because I realized that I could move. While I was still feeling sluggish, I could undoubtedly move.

Well, it looks like my inability to move yesterday was due to the lingering effect of that damn drug. Now that a day has passed, my condition has probably improved significantly.

Recalling Dominic and my parents' assurances that I was going to be discharged soon, I didn't suspect anything further.

Soon, my parents came and brought me breakfast—nutritious chicken soup.

Later, Yvonne came to check me over. She said I was doing pretty well, and I could go home to recuperate once the remaining drug was out of my system.

Seizing that opportunity, I asked her about the kind of drug Julius gave me.

Yvonne was frank with me, telling me that it was a kind of psychotropic drug that paralyzed the nervous system. In short, one would be rendered incapacitated after

consuming the drug. One wouldn't be able to talk either, and it would affect one's physical functions. In cases of overdose, it was lethal without timely intervention.

Julius had overdosed me, so I could have died had I not been found in time.

Terror enveloped me after hearing that, and gratitude toward Dominic again welled up within me.

While his tongue is rather sharp, he has indeed saved me.

Inwardly, I decided to treat it like water off my back without taking any offense if he ever provoked me with words again, just for that reason alone.

But well... I wonder where he has disappeared to. I saw no sign of him when I woke up this morning, and he's still not here yet though it's almost noon now. And Shannon said he kept watch here every day? Hah! That's probably an exaggeration on her part.

I breathed easier knowing that I was perfectly fine. Since I could move now, my parents left after noon.

They couldn't do anything at the hospital anyway, so it would be better for them to go home and rest or take a nap.

After my parents left, I was bored lying on the bed, so I closed my eyes and napped for a bit. When the sound of the door creaking open sounded, I jolted awake.

I initially thought that it was Dominic, but I was greeted by the sight of a man in a cap and sunglasses. He even had a huge bouquet of flowers in his hand.

I was very familiar with that disguise, and the only person among my acquaintances who would dress in such a manner was Nicholas.

I didn't expect him to know about me being hospitalized and only learned that Shannon told him when I asked him about it.

He urged me to recuperate well without worrying about anything else, promising to help Shannon deal with Flash.

Gratitude suffused me when I heard that, and I felt that I was truly indebted to him.

With people coming and going since this was a hospital, he couldn't stay for long. After chatting with me for a bit, he left.

Later in the day, Benjamin and Mitch came over as well.

They told me they would ensure that Julius received his due, thus urging me not to worry.

As Dominic had said that, I wasn't all that surprised to hear it from them.

They only sat and talked with me for a while before leaving.

For some reason, many people came to visit, but Dominic never showed up that day.

During the few days I was hospitalized, my parents came every day. Likewise, Shannon also visited for a short time daily.

In the beginning, she kept pestering me about my relationship with Dominic like a dog with a bone. Later, however, she probably ran out of patience and gave up asking when she saw that I wasn't going to say anything.

Meanwhile, Benjamin and Mitch visited thrice during my stay in the hospital.

Dominic, on the other hand, didn't show up even once ever since then. I had absolutely no inkling what was keeping him so busy that he couldn't even visit me.

On the sixth day, my parents settled the discharge procedures and took me home.

I felt that I was actually fine and could start working, but they objected staunchly. In the end, I could only concur and promise to rest for another week.

I already asked Shannon to contact Flash about my situation. Flash hadn't blamed me back then, and they were also very understanding this time. On the whole, I felt that they were truly nice.

After resting for a week, Shannon and I went to the set of "The Wind And Cloud" to officially start collecting preliminary information for the comic.

I watched television a lot, but it was my first time watching the filming itself. Thus, I was impressed at everything I saw the first day I was on set. Shannon's reaction wasn't much different from mine.

When she saw Nicholas and Scarlett filming, she almost passed out from excitement.

While I wasn't as worked up as she was, I still felt that they made the perfect match the more I scrutinized them.

We watched several scenes of theirs from the side, and remarkably, there wasn't a single retake.

After being on set for a few days, I found myself getting used to it. The fact that I could see handsome men and beautiful women every day had me in high spirits.

In such an environment, not only did my efficiency at drawing comics improve, but even the quality went up a notch. This was shown when the manuscripts I submitted were all accepted by Flash without any complaints.

In order to better depict the details, I even sought out the person in charge of the costumes and asked to borrow the costumes.

On that particular day, I was seriously drawing in the room when a surprising voice rang out behind me.

“Can you make it any uglier, Liliana?”

The person who criticized me the moment he opened his mouth could be none other than Dominic.

Irritably jerking my head back and throwing him a glare, I impatiently snapped, “What has my drawing got to do with you? This isn’t for you anyway.”

Hah! He inexplicably disappears for several days, but still, nothing good comes out of his mouth when he makes an appearance again. Ugh! I must have owed him in the previous life!

“It had nothing to do with me in the past, but it’s now my business,” the man declared with a smirk.

At that, I turned around in puzzlement and asked, “What does that mean?”

Love the Second Time Around Chapter 80

Chapter 80 What Abiding Grudge

A grin stretched across Dominic’s annoying face at that moment, and his thick brows wiggled meaningfully. His expression had me rolling my eyes.

“Because I’m now in charge of the costumes for the production team. Besides, I’ve also invested a little in the movie. In other words, you’re now working for me.”

Huh?

I was so shocked that my stylus fell to the floor.

“Ah, look how happy you are. I’m flattered.” Dominic smugly strutted up to me and bent down to pick my stylus up. His long and slender fingers then started twirling the stylus mesmerizingly. How the hell did he gather that I was ecstatic? Livid, I snatched my stylus from his hand and slammed it down on the tablet with a thud.

Grr! I’m not in the mood to draw anymore!“What’s wrong? Are you planning to go on a strike?”

He swiveled my chair and leaned down, eyeing me provocatively with his penetrating gaze.

Oh God, what sin have I ever committed that I've gotten myself tangled up with such a devil? I lowered myself to become his caregiver and endured his various torments every day, only ever getting some freedom at work and relaxing for a bit. Now, however, I'm again enmeshed with him. Do you have no mercy, Lord?

Plunging into depression at once, I pushed Dominic away with a dour expression on my face. "Yes, I'm going on a strike! What can you do about that?"

I got up, but before I was even steady on my feet, I was grabbed and pushed back onto the chair. All at once, my temper flared, and I blew my top.

"What are you doing? Let go of me!"

"I spent an entire week to worm my way into Flash, yet you dare to go on a strike? What do you think I'll do?"

What? I was stunned for a moment before a light bulb went off in my head. No wonder I didn't see him for a whole week when I was hospitalized. It turns out that he was doing this? Isn't he just making trouble for himself?

"What exactly are you thinking, Dominic? You abandoned your career as a designer and came here on set just to sabotage things? How did I ever offend you? Are you determined to torture me every single moment of every day before you're satisfied?"

I thought he would be dissuaded after hearing that, but reality proved that I was truly too naive. He blinked his bright, obsidian eyes before nodding nonchalantly.

"Yup! As long as I get to torment you every single moment of every day, my mood will soar. Since you're currently drawing my costumes, I am certainly obligated to supervise the quality of your work."

After saying that, he stuffed the stylus into my hand and turned the chair so that I faced the tablet once more.

"Go on and continue drawing until I'm satisfied."

Not in the mood to entertain him, I lifted my hand to toss the stylus down, only for him to grab my wrist.

"It doesn't matter if you're not willing to draw. I don't want to waste time on someone with no talent anyway. In that case, let's do something far more interesting..."

He deliberately made the word "interesting" sound suggestive. Shuddering in fear, I hastily straightened and started drawing right away.

He seemed exceedingly pleased with my reaction. Leaning down, he placed his mouth close to my ear. "We can do it after you're done drawing."

Seeing red, I raised my hand and swung it over to draw on his face, but he was as agile as a cat. With a single sidestep, he easily dodged my attack.

"All right, I'll leave you to your drawing. I'll be back to check it later before taking you out for a meal." Having said that, he strode away without giving a whit about whether I was willing to have a meal with him.

Irrked, I wailed mournfully in my head. Argh! What abiding grudge does he have against me? He has already gotten my body, so why can't he just let me go? Oh yes, there's still Camille! Didn't I hear that she's back? Why haven't I seen her even after such a long time? Don't tell me she's truly unbothered about her fiancé?